Salisbury University
Nabb Research Center
for Delmarva History and Culture
DE
MD
Chesapeake Bay

Shoreline

Vol. 11, No. 9 • September 2004

For the Members of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University

Woven of Many Strands: The Heritage of Delmarva's Diversity

Salisbury University

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Director's Dialogue

from Becky Miller

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." —Benjamin Franklin

You will see that the Nabb Research Center staff, colleagues and partners truly believe what Ben Franklin said. While most of the University has a less hectic pace during the summer months, the Nabb Research Center always continues at full tilt, and summer 2004 was no exception.

On subsequent pages, you will read about and see photographs of the exciting Teaching American History Summer Institute for Wicomico County teachers, as well as read about the second annual Pemberton Historical Summer Camp where elementary school students tackled the same research challenges as Salisbury University juniors.

We also had a communication arts intern from Frostburg State University who has captured on film the various events of the summer. Yet another intern, this one from Salisbury University, has done an outstanding job curating the Nabb Center's exhibit on Native Americans, in conjunction with Salisbury University's fall cultural event series "A Celebration of Native American Peoples." A handful of Dr. Ray Thompson's students were also busy compiling biographical sketches on the Shore's earliest settlers.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the *Shoreline*, assembled by just-graduated SU student Erin McKenzie, who we were lucky to employ for the summer. The Nabb celebrates the diversity of Delmarva culture, the original "Ellis Island."

Cover photo by Iris Powell. Woven blanket in Lee's Surrender pattern from the Benjamin Lankford Collection at the Nabb Research Center.

Submissions

Anyone interested in submitting an article to the *Shoreline* newsletter should send their item to the newsletter editor as follows:

Nabb Research Center
Salisbury University
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801

or send an e-mail to
rcdhac@salisbury.edu.

We also welcome your comments and suggestions.

Hours & Closings

HOURS
Monday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

CLOSINGS
Thanksgiving - November 25-28
Christmas - December 18 - January 2
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - January 17

Welcome

The Nabb Research Center warmly welcomes Jason Illari. Jason is the Nabb Center's newest graduate assistant and will be working at the front desk during the 2004-2005 school year. Maryland native and graduate of Salisbury University, Jason continues his historical education by focusing on social and cultural history of the United States and, more specifically, Delmarva. In addition to his tasks at the Nabb Center and as a graduate-level student, Jason will also serve as the new curator of the Poplar Hill Mansion in the Newtown district of Salisbury. In his leisure time Jason enjoys golf and racquetball.

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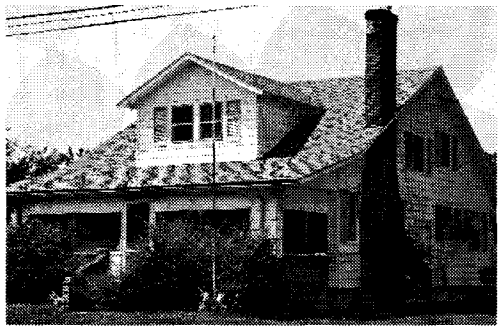
Late 19th Century Native American Photo History: Tracing the Provenance



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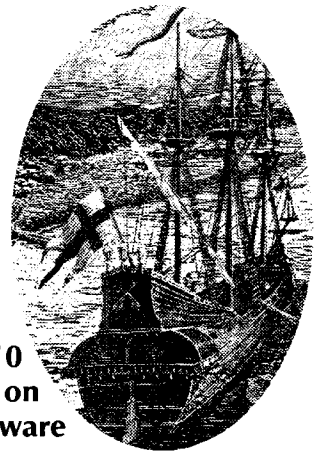

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New Sweden on the Delaware

Volume 11 No. 9 September 2004

Director, Rebecca F. Miller. *Research Assistant,* Aaron Horner. *Administrative Assistant,* Donna Messick. *Library Technician/Web Designer,* Iris Powell. *Graduate Assistants,* Jason Illari and James Jensen.

This issue and back issues of the *Shoreline* may be purchased for $10 each by contacting us at 410-543-6312 or rcdhac@salisbury.edu.

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Pieces of a Puzzle

by Iris Powell

In the popular movie *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, Indiana Jones rescues the Ark of the Covenant from the villainous Nazis and brings this priceless artifact to the U.S. where, in the last scene of the movie, we see it being crated and transported into the depths of a remote military top-secret archive. Ever to be seen again? Like Indiana Jones, mining historical treasure and bringing it to light to be shared and interpreted over and over again are among the real and exciting challenges motivating staff at the Nabb Research Center. Recently, one such Nabb treasure was discovered by Tammy Belote Elvenia. The serendipity of this discovery reveals much about how archives work and how repositories such as Nabb strive to make holdings available to the vast community of history researchers in this Information Age.

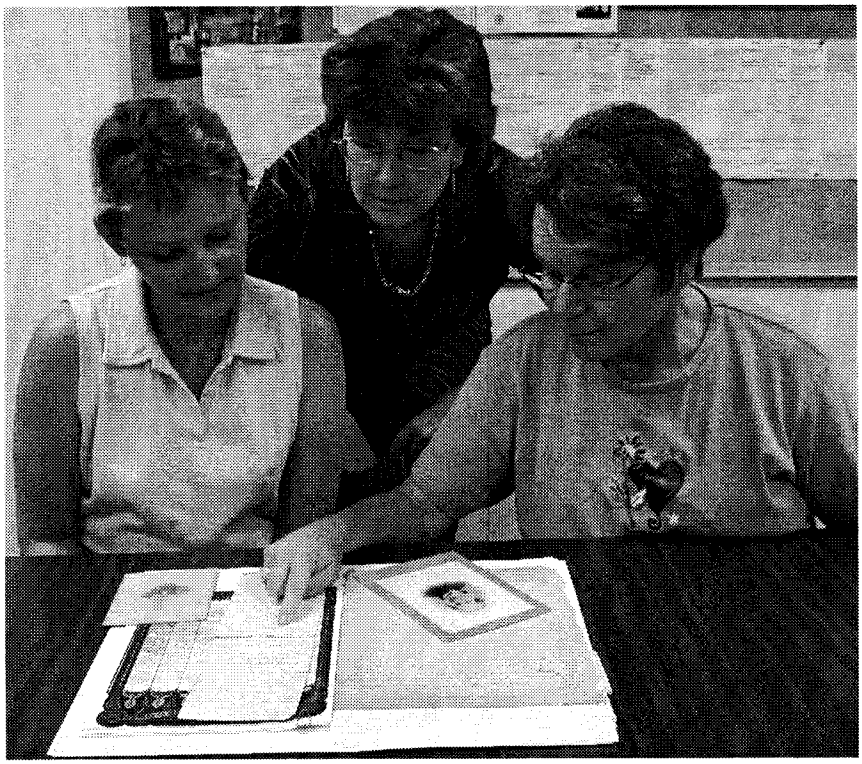
When Robert Shores delivered the Belote family documents and photographs that he had generously purchased at auction for the Nabb Research Center, the staff members were immediately struck by the beautiful Bible pages. We were redesigning our Web site and decided to use scanned images of these Belote pages as examples of our family Bible holdings. With the Bible pages came two wonderful photographs of Joseph Gunter Belote and his wife (circa 1880). These images were also scanned and added to the Web site.

As it so happened, for six years Tammy Elvenia had been searching online for Joseph Gunter Belote. Every now and then she would run a Yahoo search using the name just to see if anything would come up. One day it happened, Eureka! At the Nabb Research Center Web site not only did she get a match but it was a Bible record graphic and photographs of her fourth generation removed grandfather and grandmother. She had never considered searching in Maryland since all her family lived and died in Accomack County, VA. Not everyone remembers that the Nabb Research Center collects Delmarva history including the two lower Virginia and Delaware Peninsula counties.

When Tammy visited the Nabb Research Center, she was able to study the original Bible records and obtain copies of those priceless Belote photographs. Through this information, she has been able to trace her family to John Billiott, which is spelled 32 different ways in the record books, which she talks about at the Ghotes Web site, www.esva.net/ghotes/famhist/ghotes2f.htm. On the pages of the Bible records were penned notations that solved family history mysteries that had been passed down orally for many generations. For Elvenia, this discovery was an Ark-like find, priceless beyond measure as a family history treasure. "I'm so excited. Now I understand everything I've been researching since 1996. The answers are on the back of the pages."

Web site information and images come and go. The demands of keeping Web sites dynamic, current, size manageable and cost effective challenge choices made for information displayed and materials showcased. It is only through the diligence of preserving and accessioning archival material into search databases accessible to the World Wide Web audience and in-house researchers that the serendipity of finding a Belote discovery becomes a dependable research expectation.

It is the challenge and mission of the Nabb Research Center to make each of these treasured historical puzzle pieces available to all those seeking historical truth by preserving, cataloging and accessioning every piece of Delmarva history we are privileged to receive. It takes many such pieces to complete the historical picture of a time, a place or an individual accurately. It takes the dedication of many—supporters, donors, researchers, volunteers and staff—to insure that that no "small thing forgotten but saved" is overlooked nor crated away. Ever to be seen again? Visit the Nabb Research Center's newly designed Web site http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu.



(From left) Tammy Belote Elvenia, Rebecca Miller and Gail Walczyk

Behind the Scenes: Archaeological Activity At the Nabb Center

by Natasha Jones

Whether through transcribing the probate inventory of an early Delmarva settler for History 201 or through the Proseminar class, all students pursuing history majors at Salisbury University end up at the Nabb Research Center during some point of their undergraduate careers. SU students are fortunate to have access to such an invaluable resource, as the Nabb Center provides the opportunity to work directly with primary sources, the backbone of all original and significant historical work.

Yet the Nabb Center's offerings to SU students are not limited to documentary sources and research materials. Under the guidance of SU's Dr. Elizabeth Ragan, an archaeology lab was established in the Center in autumn 2002. It is the first of its kind since the dissolution of the Lower Shore Regional Archaeology Center in the late 1980s and represents one of only two academically based archaeology labs on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Shortly after being set up and equipped, the lab was used by Dr. Ragan and a group of SU students to process the artifacts that were unearthed during the excavation of the Thornton site during the summer of 2002. The excavation of this 17th-century site in Somerset County was the first archaeological field school offered to students since 1989. It is also one of only a few excavated sites on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, which date to that period.

Since its inception, SU students have received training and gained experience in archaeological lab work by cataloging, labeling, and learning to accurately identify 17th- and early 18th-century artifacts. Since this region was inhabited prior to English settlement in the 17th century, students have also had the opportunity to identify and work with the ceramic wares and lithic materials of the area's indigenous Indian groups.

In addition, the primary source materials located at the Nabb Center have also enabled students to begin comparing the documents associated with the Thornton site with the newly uncovered artifacts. This synthesis of documentary and archaeological evidence promises to lead to increased knowledge of 17th-century Colonial life, as well as enrich our collective understanding of the Eastern Shore's history and heritage.

Along with offering an excellent academic experience, this hands-on work with historical and archaeological materials also provides SU students with the opportunity to make a contribution to the ongoing exploration of the Chesapeake region's earliest history.

If students would like to volunteer in the lab or participate in future archaeological fieldwork projects, please contact the SU History Department or Dr. Ragan directly.

Natasha Jones will be starting her senior year in fall 2004 where she is pursuing degrees in history and anthropology.

In Loving Memory

Dr. James S. McCallops, associate professor of history, recently passed away after a courageous battle against cancer. Dr. McCallops was a devoted teacher whose passion and dedication to the historical field and gender studies was to be admired. Known as a "stickler" when it came to his students' writing, he never compromised his standards of quality, whether grading full-length research papers or short, seemingly insignificant essays. His keen wit and often times dry sense of humor made his courses enjoyable; his teaching style, which centered around class discussion, made learning about history more practical and personal. This issue of the *Shoreline* is dedicated to his memory. Diversity, the theme of this issue is fitting, as he initiated and ran the Horizons program at Salisbury University, which featured the motto "Celebrate Diversity." As a teacher, mentor, colleague and friend, he will be deeply missed. We love you, Jim.

Dr. McCallops (far right) is shown here, poised and stylish as ever, with the students from the Fulton School of Liberal Arts who traveled to the National Conference for Undergraduate Research, otherwise known as NCUR, in April 2004. He supported and guided students in various academic pursuits, from presenting at research conferences to applying to graduate school. Also shown are (from left): Chris Abraham, Steve Lessner, Erin McKenzie, Dr. Ronald Dotterer and Tom Hamill.

Secondary Sources as the Clue, Not the Answer

by Rebecca Miller

Since the theme of this issue celebrates the diversity of the settlers of the Delmarva Peninsula, it is appropriate to illustrate once again the importance of consulting primary sources or original records during historical research. Many tidbits of history may be lost and erroneous conclusions are reached when only secondary sources are consulted.

As is frequently the case in historical research, when seeking one piece of information one quite often stumbles upon another discovery. In this case we were confirming sources on an Eastern Shore settler whom we were considering for use in an exercise for the undergraduate Proseminar in History class. What appeared on the same page as the information originally sought was the following, which was one of the references the secondary source we consulted used.

In 1665 was recorded:

> The Rights of Sergeant Bloyce transplanted having taken the oath of Fidelty and Sworn to the rights within the province of Maryland in Manokin at the Eastern Shore, Thomas Bloyce Francis Bloyce Judith Bloyce Frances Bloyce Mary Williams Mannwell Deas Richard Patridge Thomas Bloyes enters the rights abovemenconed being Seven in number which are to remayne as good and those six rights formerly entred by him to be voyd. (MD Pat 8:486)

The entry stood out on the page because we thought, "Oh, good, here is something we can use in a newsletter to illustrate how early the term 'Eastern Shore' was used." It was also interesting because we did not recall ever seeing the term "sergeant" applied to Thomas Bloyce. When my personal files were consulted, the notes on Bloyce were as follows:

> Thomas Bloyce evidently twice entered headrights claiming land: first by 1662 claiming Frances, his wife, Judith and Frances his daughters, John Painter and Emanuel and also in 1666 with Francis, Judith and Frances Bloyce, Mary Williams and Richard Partridge. (secondary source citation)

We had not thought twice about consulting the original patent records since nothing about the secondary source citation entry appeared to be amiss. It was a shame that Emanuel's surname was not recorded in the secondary source, but it was understandable since many times persons are shown only as "Mary an Irish" or the like. After all, Emanuel was probably a servant and was untraceable and Richard Partridge likely did not leave any descendants in the area. Some settlers claimed additional lands by submitting dual claims, so the fact that Bloyce had submitted two claims with nearly identical "heads" did not appear as a red flag. Also, the man referred to as John Painter in this entry was actually John Panter who had settled in the same area as Bloyce. The secondary source had previously met our needs and, since it did not conflict with anything we thought we knew, we thought to ourselves "we can't check everything."

After we realized how much information contained in those few lines from the patent records were omitted and, as is almost always the case with historical research, with more answers found, more questions arose: Bloyce was definitely placed in Manokin Hundred on the Eastern Shore and Bloyce did not commit fraud by making dual claims for land. Yet, in what context was Bloyce a sergeant (Somerset County was not formed until August 1666) and to whom did Bloyce take an oath of fidelity? The most perplexing situation involves the person called Emanuel. The man with no surname in the secondary source appeared to be Mannwell Deas from the primary source.

It is no surprise that the diverse heritage of the Peninsula is unrecognized as the clues are difficult to find and, when secondary sources omit these rare clues, the existence of such persons is erased. Who is Mannwell Deas? We don't know, but we do know that "Deas" is phonetically "Dias" and "Dyas" which evolved to "Dies," "Dise" and finally "Dize," which is an old and respected Eastern Shore surname. It may be safe to surmise that Mannwell "Deas" was Emmanuel Diaz who, by the surname alone, may be considered of Hispanic, perhaps Portuguese, origin.

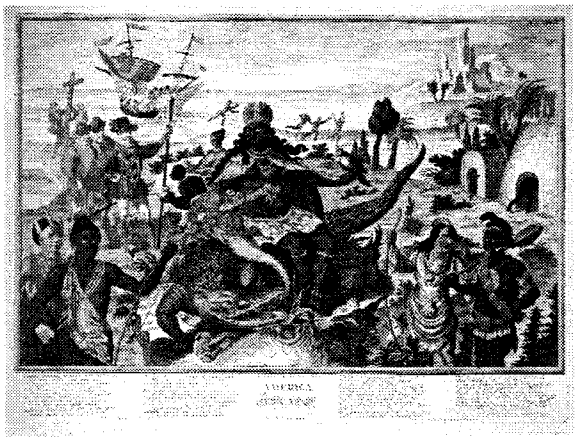
All Somerset County Dize descendants may trace their ancestry to one Thomas Dize who married in 1674 Jane Pellingham. We know that Jane Pellingham was first an indentured servant to Thomas Price of Annemessex Hundred whose term of service was sold to Thomas Bloyce in 1672. Dare we hypothesize that Emmanuel Deas, the headright (and likely servant) of Thomas Bloyce, changed his Hispanic name to Thomas Dize to assimilate himself? And the chase begins.

Secondary sources are invaluable. Without them and the indices they provide to the primary records, we would be unable to even find the rare clues. The moral is this: By all means utilize secondary materials but let them lead you to the primary source.

Becky Miller is the director of the Nabb Research Center and the compiler of dozens of abstracts of primary sources (secondary sources!) from the Somerset County records: tax lists, will books, inventories, orphans' court records, judicial records, church records. She is a descendant of Leah Dize b. c1750 who m. Levi Lankford; their granddaughter, Mary Ann Lankford, m. Rev. James P. Miller.

A Blend of Cultures: Delmarva During the Early Colonial Period

by Erin McKenzie



When studying the colonization of what is now the United States, American history scholars separate the process geographically between the New England and Chesapeake regions. The New England settlements are characterized by many in regards to their lack of diversity of culture because of comparable nationalities and purposes: Anglo-Saxon Puritans chose to leave their native England for the New World in order to build their "city on a hill." One may argue that the Chesapeake, on the other hand, was settled by a diverse group of people with a variety of intentions. In both cases, New England and Chesapeake settlers encountered native peoples whose lives were vastly unlike their own. People from several distinct cultures descended upon the Eastern Shore throughout the first decades of settlement. This "culture clash," as it has been termed, presumably caused conflict, maybe even chaos, but also formed valuable human mergers, which produced children with dual and sometimes multiple ethnicities.

My personal awareness of the diversity of the early inhabitants of the Delmarva Peninsula began when I was assigned to read Breen and Innes' *Myne Owne Ground: Race and Class on Virginia's Eastern Shore* for a History of the South class taught by Mr. Don Whaley at Salisbury University. With direct commercial connections to Dutch and Portuguese outposts during the mid-17th century, the Peninsula was influenced by not only the English who settled on its shores but also by the free blacks who had been seasoned amongst those who represented other European traditions. These men and women brought not only their native cultural heritage to the Shore but also bits of the cultures, many times in the form of languages, of their former captors.

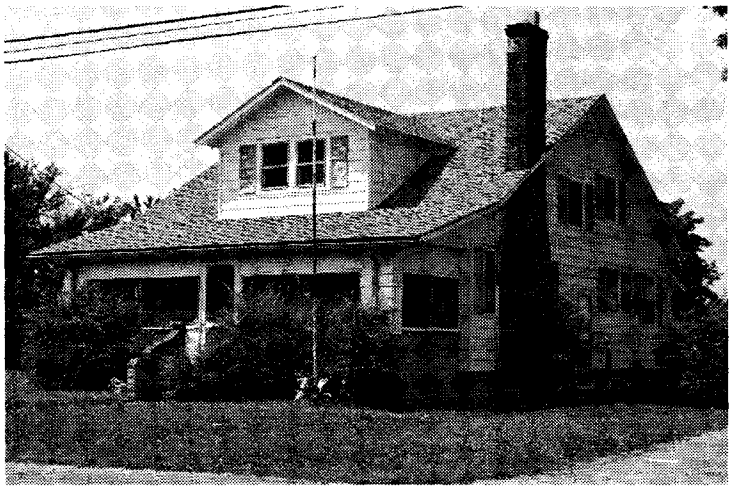
Through research for the September *Shoreline,* I learned quite a bit about the diversity of Delmarva. Though many people identify the area primarily with English settlers, and it is true that the majority were British, people of different nationalities visited and inhabited the area as well. Even before the actual "settlement" of the Delmarva area, Spanish explorers may have ventured into the Chesapeake regions' uncharted waters. Some believe that Giovanni da Verrazano, an Italian in the service of Francis I, the French monarch, and his crew were the first Europeans to make contact with the natives of the Peninsula when they sailed into Chincoteague Bay in 1524. Settlement did commence eventually, of course, and in 1631, the Zwaanendael, or Swanendael, Colony was established by the Dutch near present-day Lewes, DE, 24 years after the first permanent English settlement in Jamestown.

With people of many different cultural, national and ethnic backgrounds settling, in addition to the native peoples who already inhabited the area, near the Chesapeake, the term "melting pot" has been associated with the region. However, the term "melting pot," most commonly associated with the huge influx of immigrants into the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, has been challenged as a valid metaphor for the mixing of cultures and ethnicities which takes place during periods of large-scale immigration. Other metaphors, such as a stew pot, salad bowl or tapestry, have been offered in response to the idea that in a melting pot the ingredients become the same substance, with no identity of their own. No matter which metaphor one chooses to describe this mixing of cultures, it is evident that some form of cultural, ethnic and racial integration occurred on the Delmarva Peninsula during the Colonial period and continues to present day. With surnames such as Derrickson (Dutch), Disharoon and Fontaine (French), Hack (German), Riggin (Irish), Delamos (Portuguese), McNabb (Scottish), Driggus [Rodriguez] (Spanish), Dize (possibly Spanish or Portuguese) and Evans (Welsh) prevalent on the Eastern Shore it is obvious that the region is diverse in its heritage. Delmarva is referred to by some as the original Ellis Island.

Erin McKenzie, a history major and gender studies minor, graduated magna cum laude from Salisbury University in May 2004. She worked at the Nabb Research Center this summer and will serve as coordinator of Salisbury's Promise through the Shorecorps/PALS program. Erin has been accepted into the history M.A. program at American University in Washington, D.C., where she plans to attend in 2005.

Hiding in Plain Sight: The Cheswold Lenape Community

by Cara Lee Blume, Ph.D.



Once the home of the late Leola and Billy Morris, this one-and-a-half story bungalow is one of the larger houses in the community.

Driving west past the small Kent County, DE, town of Cheswold on Delaware Route 42, the traveler finds the road lined on both sides with small houses, mostly one-story and most built in the 1940s. A second, less distinctive enclave can be found along McKee Road, which runs south from the center of town along the railroad tracks before turning west behind the town. These are the homes of descendants of the Lenape (or Delaware) people whose settlements spread over much of what is now the state of Delaware for millennia before the arrival of the first Europeans and Africans in the second quarter of the 17th century. This community continues to be served by their traditional church, Immanuel Union United Methodist Church, though the segregated school they attended until 1964 has long since disappeared.

Two other small enclaves of Lenape families located a few miles south of Cheswold have disappeared within the last half century. The oldest of these, located at Fork Branch (also known as du Pont Station) and dating to the middle of the 19th century, is still marked by the presence of the church and cemetery and one of the houses, now on the grounds of an industrial property, though the church no longer serves the Lenape community. The second and smaller of these two enclaves consisted of a cluster of four or five nearly identical houses on the west side of Saulsbury Road, all built at the beginning of the last century. All of these buildings have now disappeared, though one has been preserved at the Delaware Agricultural Museum. Other families lived in more isolated locations around Cheswold, but remained connected to the community through church, school and family. Most of these houses have also disappeared over the last few decades.

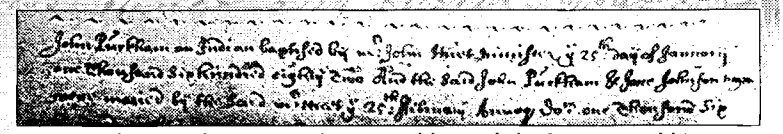
These enclaves were built at a time when the survival of the Lenape as a people depended on maintaining a separate identity from both their Euro-American and African American neighbors, but at the same time keeping quiet about their Indian heritage. They accomplished this by "hiding in plain sight"—living outwardly like their non-Indian neighbors while maintaining a profoundly Indian matriarchal social structure and marrying almost exclusively within their own community or with the genealogically related Indian communities of southern Delaware (Nanticoke) and southern New Jersey (Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape). By living together they could affirm their separate identity and support each other through the trials of living in a segregated and racially hostile society.

Today, family ties remain important in maintaining a sense of community among the Lenape people of central Kent County, though it is no longer so necessary to live close together. The tribal organization, the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware, is actively working for wider recognition of the Cheswold Lenape community as the lineal descendants of the Lenape bands who lived throughout much of Delaware before the first Dutch and Swedish settlers arrived. In April 2003 and again in November 2003, Chief Dennis J. Coker headed a delegation of Lenape people from Delaware and southern New Jersey to welcome representatives from Sweden in celebration of the 365th anniversary of a pact of friendship between the Lenape people and the government of Sweden. Increasingly, members of the Delaware Lenape community are willing to come out of hiding and be identified with their Indian heritage.

This small house, now the home of Anna and Carlton Coker, is a rare unaltered example of the typical Lenape houses built along Route 42 during the 1940s.

Debenada, King of Great Nussags, To Jane Johnson, Negro: African-Indian Relations on the Eastern Shore

by Ryan Cox



During the 17th century, imported Africans and Native Americans found themselves in a trying situation while living on the Eastern Shore. Both groups pretty much were at the mercy of the increasing number of whites that settled in the area. Blacks were being transported in for labor while Indians were forced out of their homes. This outsider stigma brought the two groups together in order to survive in a place where they were consistently being treated as second-class citizens. As blacks and Indians were able to somewhat assimilate during the early and mid-1600s, opportunities opened up for those who were willing to cooperate and follow the customs of the ruling white men.

Trade between free blacks and the local Indian communities increased as the century continued. This is evident in the case concerning an Indian king and the daughter of a prominent black patriarch. The deposition of Nicholas Waddlelowe in January 1657 reveals the fact that Tobot Deabot, an Indian king, gave 100 acres of land to the daughter of Anthony Johnson, a free black living in Northampton County. It is not until a later record dated September 27 that they identify Anthony Johnson's daughter as Jane, and the Indian king was named Debenada (most likely the best attempt by the county clerk to correctly spell the unfamiliar name)*. This reference poses a curious question: Why was this land given to a young free black woman by an Indian chief?

Whatever the reason for the gift, it seems that Jane Johnson never received the tract of land. Apparently the area that was set-aside for Jane did not exist, or at the least the "Laughing King" as he was commonly known, did not possess all that he thought. The plot was listed as lying next to the land owned by her brother, John Johnson, on Pungoteague Creek, but when the surveyors went to view the land, there was not enough room for the 100 acres. This entry not only leaves us with more questions about the people involved, it is the only record of Anthony Johnson's daughter, Jane, in Northampton County. One would have to jump forward 30 years and about 100 miles north to find a possible reason for the gift.

Found in an unusual mix of birth, marriage and death records could be the clue needed to solve the mystery. In February 1682 there is a marriage record between "Jane Johnson, Negro" to a recently baptized Indian named John Puckham. Puckham was baptized by Minister John Huet in January and then married Johnson, again by Huet, the next month. This entry leads one to believe that the 100 acre land gift to Anthony Johnson's daughter, Jane, from Tobot Deabot was in fact a wedding gift for his son and his young bride (most likely still in her teens) in Northampton County in 1657. The reason for the late recording of the marriage was that the marriage could not be considered legal until the groom, John Puckham, was officially baptized (Jane Johnson and her two brothers had been baptized). Only after these terms were met would the marriage be deemed lawful in the eyes of the colony.

Even though the two records are more than 20 years apart, conclusive evidence points that this is the same Jane Johnson for a number of reasons. The marriage record reveals that Jane Johnson still used her maiden name. If this were not Anthony Johnson's daughter, then the woman would have taken her husband's surname instead of keeping her own maiden name. Second, Jane Johnson is labeled as a "Negro" and not a mulatto, as those of mixed heritage are commonly referred. Jane Johnson was the child of an almost 50-year marriage of two freed blacks living on the Eastern Shore. The dates also show that this could have just been the finalization of the sacred union. In 1682, Jane would have been in her forties, an elderly woman, but still fully capable to marry and give birth to children.

Scholars have referred to this marriage as the first black-Indian marriage found in Eastern Shore records but not the only one of its kind. What makes this particular case extraordinary is that the couple waited 20 years to make their commitment official in their new home of Maryland. This is similar to what freed slaves did after the conclusion of the American Civil War. Across the nation, thousands of slave couples officially married even after decades of being together; jumping the broom was replaced by real marriage licenses. In the 17th century, baptism was required for couples to be legally married. John Puckham being "recently baptized" was the final step in creating this sacred union with Jane Johnson, two very different people who found comfort with each other in an inhospitable area of the world where their chances of complete assimilation were quickly being diminished. With the increase of African slaves entering the colony and the lack of available land to support the influx of settlers, unions like these would not be common as the eighteenth century approached.

***Editor's Note: Better known as Debbedeavon.**

Ryan Cox is a recent graduate of the Salisbury University master's degree program in history. Originally from Columbia, MD, he hopes to pursue a career in education.

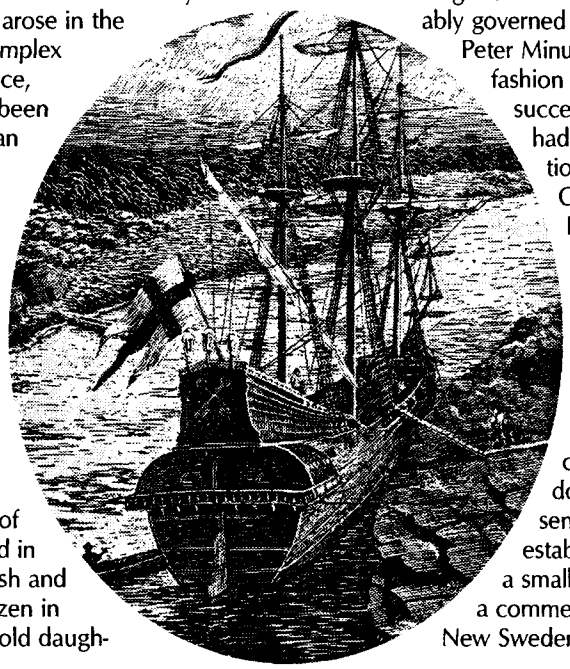
New Sweden on the Delaware—A Unique Chapter in Delmarva History

by Richard B. Carter

One of the more interesting stories in the long history of European settlement on Delmarva is that of New Sweden. This tiny outpost of Scandinavia, centered along the Christina River in what is now the city of Wilmington, DE, existed officially only from 1638 until the colony was taken over by the Dutch in 1655. At its height, it numbered little more than 200 men, women and children, but its influence was felt far longer and well beyond the Delaware Valley.

The impetus to establish New Sweden arose in the mid-1630s during a period of unusually complex geopolitics in Europe. Unlike England, France, Holland, Spain and Portugal, Sweden had been largely preoccupied with military rather than commercial interests in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. While European navigators and explorers from many nations were engaged in voyages of discovery and settlement in the New World, Sweden was fighting the Thirty Years' War to protect Protestant interests under its stalwart monarch, Gustavus Adolphus.

Gustavus, known to many as "the Lion of the North," was growing weary of watching other nations establish domains in America and had begun to express a desire to pursue a commercial expedition of his own. Unfortunately, Gustavus was killed in 1632 just as he was leading his fine Swedish and Finnish army to victory at the Battle of Lützen in Germany. The king's only heir, his six-year-old daughter, Princess Christina, was too young to ascend to the throne and the kingdom was placed in the care of a "regency" of five noblemen until she should come of age. Principal among these was Gustavus's chancellor and close friend, Count Axel Oxenstierna, who dedicated himself to carrying out the policies the king had sought to pursue.



This etching of the *Kalmar-Nyckel* on the Christina River by famed Delmarva artist John Moll was published in the 1938 W.P.A. Federal Writers Project volume, "Delaware - A Guide to the First State."

For many years Dutch merchants and seafarers had been extremely active in commercial pursuits in Sweden and close links existed between the two peoples. In the early 1620s the Dutch West India Company, a powerful commercial enterprise, had established several outposts in America with varying degrees of success. Their domains, known as "New Netherland," were centered in the valleys of the "North River" (the Hudson) and the "South River" (the Delaware). After first attempting to locate their headquarters on a small island in the Delaware, they had shifted their focus to the island of Manhattan at the mouth of the Hudson (named for the English explorer in service to the Dutch, Henry Hudson). While still claiming much of the land along the lower Delaware Bay, their attempt to establish a whaling and fur-trading station near the mouth of the bay in 1631 had failed miserably when the inhabitants had been massacred by local Indians after only a few months of existence.

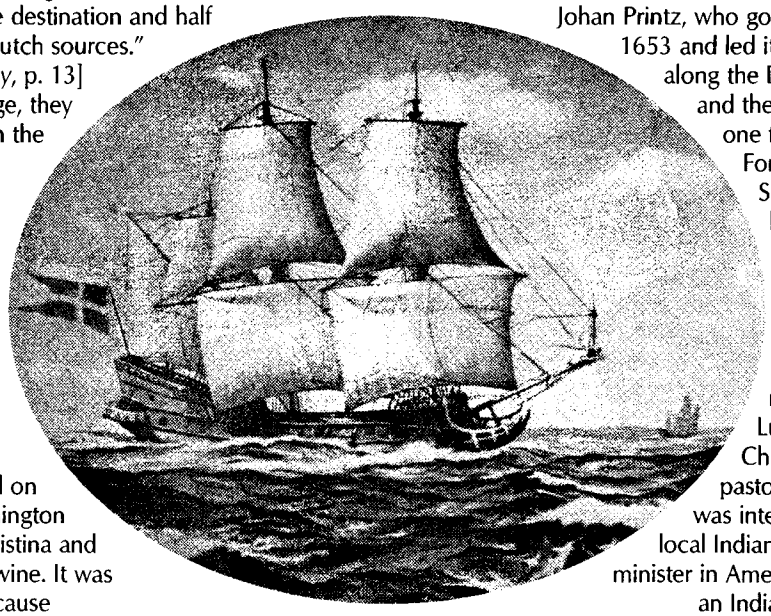
During much of this period New Netherland had been ably governed by a Rhinelander of Walloon ancestry, Peter Minuit (properly pronounced in the French fashion "Min-wee). After some five or six years of successful administration as director general, he had found himself on the losing side in a factional dispute within the Dutch West India Company. In 1632 Minuit was recalled to Holland and relieved of his duties. He returned to his home and family, essentially unemployed. In the years that followed, Swedish Chancellor Oxenstierna had begun conversations with a number of highly placed Dutch businessmen who were disaffected with Dutch West India Company policies and wished to pursue commercial undertakings free of company dominance. They discussed the feasibility of sending a Swedish expedition to America to establish a fur-trading enterprise supported by a small colony. The Swedes were receptive and a commercial enterprise was formed, known as the New Sweden Company, to sponsor an expedition. As their plans progressed, Minuit was approached. He was immediately interested and made a detailed proposal for an expedition to company officials. After lengthy negotiations, his plan was accepted and work began on organizing the voyage.

Few efforts at colonization in America could have been the subject of more careful planning. Minuit possessed a wealth of knowledge of the area and the conditions the settlers were likely to face. He knew that Dutch activities along the "South River" were at a low ebb. He planned the location of his intended colony carefully in hopes of avoiding direct conflict with the Dutch. During an earlier voyage up the river in his former capacity as director general of New Netherland, he had entered a small estuary branching off the main river which he now thought would make an ideal site. Known to the Dutch as Minquas Kill (now the Christina River), it was some distance north of the Dutch.

Two ships were secured for the voyage, the *Kalmar Nyckel* (Key

of Kalmar) and the smaller *Vogel Grip* (Griffin). These set off from Gothenburg, Sweden, in the late autumn of 1637. As historian John A. Munroe has written of the expedition, "the two ships ... that set out ... as the first expedition to New Sweden were Swedish vessels, flying the Swedish flag, operating under a Swedish charter, and carrying Swedish colonists. But a former Dutch official (Minuit) was in command, Dutch skippers and a crew that was half Dutch manned the vessels, a good part of the cargo was Dutch, an area claimed by the Dutch was the destination and half of the financing came from Dutch sources." [*Colonial Delaware - A History*, p. 13]

After a storm-tossed voyage, they arrived in the Delaware Bay in the middle of March 1638. They proceeded up the bay and river and entered the Minquas Kill where they landed at a rocky outcrop some two miles upstream from the Delaware that formed a natural landing place now known as "the Rocks." This area, which became the site of the later Swedish settlement, is located on the east side of modern Wilmington above the junction of the Christina and its main tributary, the Brandywine. It was exceptionally well chosen because although nominally claimed by the Dutch there had been no appreciable Dutch activity in the area. Moreover, it was well suited as a fur-trading center because the Christina gave easy access to inland areas where fur-bearing animals were more abundant.



This artist's impression of the *Kalmar-Nyckel* under sail enroute to the Delaware, by artist G. Allen Pierce, was published in the 1938 W.P.A. Federal Writers Project volume, "Delaware - A Guide to the First State."

In short order, Minuit met with local Indians and purchased all the land along the west side of the Delaware from Duck Creek in the south to the Schuylkill River in the north. Duck Creek is the present-day boundary between Kent and New Castle counties in Delaware and the Schuylkill is the present site of Philadelphia, so it was a substantial swath of territory. Minuit was well aware of the very different concept of land ownership among the Indians, but he made the purchase largely to serve as a basis for Swedish claims to the area in the later confrontations with the Dutch which he knew were certain to follow.

The Swedes and their Dutch cohorts built a stockade and blockhouse at the site, which they called Fort Christina in honor of Sweden's child queen, and began fur-trading activities in the surrounding region. The two vessels in which the first expedition had come made their way separately back to the Netherlands and Sweden, stopping along the way to engage in other trading activities. Minuit was killed on the return journey during a hurricane in the Caribbean.

When the trading activities did not immediately prove as profitable as the Dutch sponsors had hoped, their interest in the arrangement began to cool, particularly since the West India Company took a predictably dim view of the entire arrangement. For that reason, the Swedes ultimately bought out their Dutch investors and assumed complete control of the colony, which in time became a colony of the Swedish government.

The short history of the official life of New Sweden continued with a succession of leaders, the most successful of whom was Johan Printz, who governed the colony from 1643 to 1653 and led its expansion to various points along the Delaware between the Christina and the Schuylkill. He also established one fort on the east bank of the river, Fort Elfsborg, south of present-day Salem Creek, and built his own headquarters at Tinicum Island, below present-day Philadelphia. Throughout the history of New Sweden, Fort Christina remained the trading center, however.

The Swedes were predominantly Lutherans and the first Lutheran church was erected at Fort Christina in 1643 and one of its early pastors, Johan Campanius Holm, who was interested in the languages of the local Indian tribes, became the first Protestant minister in America to translate a catechism into an Indian language. The church became and remained one of the most visible symbols of the Swedish presence in America and the parish which arose at Fort Christina continued to be served by a succession of Swedish pastors for more than a century after Swedish rule officially ended in 1655.

The present Old Swedes (Holy Trinity) Church on Wilmington's east side, built in 1699, is a direct successor of the first church and remained a part of the Church of Sweden until after the American Revolution when the mother church made the decision to recall its American pastors and turn the operations of the several Swedish churches in the region over to the Anglican Church, then being reorganized, as the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States. Other one-time Swedish parishes existed in neighboring parts of Pennsylvania and at North East, MD. Old Swedes became one of the founding parishes of the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware in 1786. In the years since then, links have remained close between the parish and its Swedish roots.

The Swedish and Finnish settlers of New Sweden were for the most part absorbed on friendly terms into New Amsterdam and the English colonies in the region after the colony fell to the Dutch in 1655, though some of its leaders returned home to Europe. They are credited with having brought a number of innovations to America, including the well-built log cabins that became so much a part of the American frontier. Sweden has always taken great inter-

Ulster Scot Immigration To the Eastern Shore of Maryland

by Dr. Creston Long

Most immigrants arriving in the Chesapeake region throughout the 17th century were from England. Tens of thousands of poor English laborers, as well as Englishmen of middling status, funneled through the port cities of London and Bristol into the expanding trans-Atlantic network of English colonies. But the English immigrants were not alone. For years historians have been aware of the smaller immigrant streams originating from places outside of England. French Huguenots, Dutch settlers, and a much larger group of Africans and African-Caribbean peoples were also arriving in the English North American colonies. Another group that began arriving in the Chesapeake late in the 17th century comprised an important sub-group of English subjects, the Ulster Scots.

The Ulster Scots, Scottish people who had settled in the northern counties of Ireland, have interested generations of historians for several reasons. First, these people appear to have brought with them a distinctive set of culture ways from their homeland. Second, the Ulster Scots have been associated with major inter-colonial migration movements preceding the American Revolution. The Ulster Scots were in the vanguard of the first major push into the Piedmont, mountain and valley regions of Virginia and the Carolinas. Finally, by the mid-18th century, this group also represented the largest non-English, white population in the English American colonies.

Ulster Scot immigrants began pouring into the colonies in the second decade of the 18th century. Here on the Eastern Shore, however, there was a growing number of Ulster Scots by the late 17th century. Several historians have pointed to the rapid growth of the Presbyterian church on the Shore as basic evidence of the magnitude of this group. In the early 1680s, Francis Mackemie organized four Presbyterian meetings in Somerset County. To put the development of Presbyterianism here in perspective, by 1700 there were only 12 Presbyterian churches in all the English North American colonies.

This is a group that deserves more attention. Historians know quite a bit about Ulster communities on the northern Eastern Shore in Cecil County, and there has been considerable research on this immigrant group in the backcountry counties of the middle and southern colonies. Yet we know relatively little about the "beachhead" that Ulster Scots established here in the early colonial period.

Dr. Creston Long is an associate professor of history at SU.

Side Note On the Ulster Scots

The term "Ulster Scots" does not appear in the records from the Colonial period. In fact, these people would have been altogether unfamiliar with the term. The term itself has developed over time to reflect the origins of these people. Although they migrated to the New World directly from the northern counties of Ireland, many of these families had migrated to Ireland from Scotland proper in the 17th century. Over time they have been referred to as Scotch-Irish, Scots-Irish and Ulstermen. If this is not confusing enough, the term most likely to denote an Ulster Scot in the contemporary records is simply "Irish." The stream of true Catholic Irish immigrants to the New World in the early Colonial period was miniscule at best. Thus it is safe to assume that a person's name followed by the word Irish indicated Ulster origin.

New Sweden on the Delaware— A Unique Chapter in Delmarva History (cont.)

est in its former colony and visits to Wilmington and elsewhere in what was New Sweden by Swedish monarchs and other dignitaries have been made regularly over the years. On the tercentenary of the Swedish landing in 1938, Prince Bertil of Sweden presented a black granite monument incorporating a representation of the *Kalmar Nyckel* to then President Franklin D. Roosevelt during ceremonies at the site of Fort Christina. In recent years a replica of the vessel has been built at Wilmington and serves as a popular traveling tourist attraction.

Richard B. Carter, of Millsboro, DE, is a member of the Nabb Center board and frequently writes on local history. He is the author of *The History of Sussex County* (1976) and *Clearing New Ground: The Life of John G. Townsend Jr.* (2nd edition 2002).

Note on Sources

This account is largely drawn from the following publications:

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Weslager, C. A., *A Man and His Ship: Peter Minuit and the Kalmar Nyckel*, Wilmington: Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, 1989.

Dr. Weslager also published several more detailed accounts, *The Swedes and Dutch at New Castle, 1638-1664*, and *New Sweden on the Delaware, 1638-1655*, among other works.

Books for Sale

Members Doris and David Scott donated many of the following titles to be sold for the benefit of the Nabb Research Center. Try an Internet price search and you will see that we have priced these books at average or below average for the benefit of our members.

1856 Personal Property Tax for Northampton County, Virginia (1996) $10
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Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland (1994) $50
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Loretta Fowler

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Breadbasket of the Revolution (1975) $32
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Chesapeake Bay: A Pictorial Maritime History (1956)
Second Edition $20
M.V. Brewington (two copies)

Early Buildings and Historic Artifacts in Tidewater Maryland: The Eastern Shore (1989) $25
H. Chandlee Forman

The Eastern Shore of Maryland: An Annotated Bibliography (1980) $30
Ed. Enoch Pratt Free Library, Morgan H. Pritchett, Ph.D.

Exploring Virginia's Human Resources (1965) $7
Ed. Roscoe D. Hughes and Henry Leidheiser Jr.

Herring Hill (1969) $20
Ellenor R. Merriken [Federalsburg, Caroline County]

Historic Salisbury, Maryland: Including Historical Sketches of the Eastern Shore, Bicentennial Edition (1932) First Edition $50
Charles J. Truitt

A History of African Americans of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore $20
Ed. Carole C. Marks

The History of Virginia State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. (1996) $10
Published by Hickory House for Virginia State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc.

Homes of the Cavaliers (1930) $25
Katherine Scarborough

Land of the Evergreen: A Pictorial Review of Delmarva (1963) $20
John William Robertson, M.D., signed by author

Land Records of Somerset County, Maryland (1985) $200
Ruth T. Dryden

Newspapers of Maryland's Eastern Shore (1986) $50
Dickson J. Preston

Old Buckingham by the Sea on the Eastern Shore of Maryland (1936) $35
I. Marshall Page

On Land and Sea:
A Pictorial Review of the Eastern Shore of Virginia (1962) $35
John William Robertson, M.D., signed by author

Parish of Somerset: Records of Somerset County Maryland (1987) $8
Transcribed by Ruth T. Dryden

Portrait of Salisbury, Maryland thru the 1900s: The Places, the Faces, and THE TIMES (1994) $30
Richard W. Cooper

Profile of a Colonial Community on Maryland's Eastern Shore (1986) $30
Richard W. Cooper, signed by author

Rails Along the Chesapeake: A History of Railroading on the Delmarva Peninsula, 1827-1978 (1979) $50
John C. Hayman, Signed by author

Recollections: Wicomico's One Room Schools (1972) $15
Wicomico County Retired Teacher's Association

Revolutionary Soldiers & Sailors from Northampton County, Virginia (1995) $20
Compiled by Stratton Nottingham

Rivers of Eastern Shore: Seventeen Maryland Rivers (1944) $15
Hulbert Footner

Stepney Parish Records of Somerset County, Maryland: Saint Bartholomew at Green Hill Saint Marys at Tyaskin $8
Ruth T. Dryden

Talbot County: A History (1983) $60
Dickson J. Preston

Technological Innovation and the Decorative Arts: An Exhibition at the Hagley Museum (1973) $6.50

This New Man: A Discourse in Portraits (1968) $10
Ed. J. Benjamin Townsend, intro by Charles Nagel

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Fall Events Of Interest

For more information about these are any other events visit www.salisbury.edu or http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu
All events are free and open to the public

September 28-November 5

"We Call This Place Home:
Jewish Life in Maryland's Small Towns"
Fulton Hall Gallery, Salisbury University
Opening Reception: Tuesday, September 28, 6-8 p.m.
The exhibit is sponsored by the Jewish Museum of Maryland. A catalog of the exhibit will be available for purchase. Materials from the Nabb Center collections, relating to the Ulman family of Salisbury, will be featured in this exhibit. For information call 410-548-2547

Through October 15

"Eastern Shore Baseball Goes to the Majors"
Nabb Research Center
Through the generosity of Ed Jones, Salisbury University Police officer and adjunct history lecturer, his son Trey Jones and John C. Taylor III, son of member and volunteer Pat Taylor, some of their treasured collectibles are shared for a Nabb summer baseball display. Through the Topps baseball card collection of Ed Jones, many of the Eastern Shore League and Shorebird minor league players are traced to major league success. A series of card and commemorative, signed baseballs follow Baltimore Orioles history while 20 years of Topps designer cards feature baseball greats. For information call 410-543-6312.

Wednesday, October 13, 7 p.m.

"Nixon in Salisbury" - Lecture
Nabb Research Center
Dr. Dean Kotlowski, of the SU History Department, will discuss Senator Richard M. Nixon's visit to Salisbury in October 1952. Nixon was the Republican Party's nominee for vice president and the brief stop was part of a "southern swing" through Virginia and Maryland. Kotlowski will discuss the Nixon visit in light of developments in the 1952 campaign.

November 1-February 2005

"Late 19th Century Native American Photo History:
Tracing the Provenance"
Nabb Research Center
This exhibit will display the works of several late 19th century photographers of Native Americans. The collection of photographs was part of a donation to the Nabb Research Center from Wilcomb Washburn, Ph.D. Portraits of some notable Native American personalities of the late 19th century such as Sitting Bull, Red Cloud and Geronimo, all of whom were involved in various Native American struggles for civil rights, will be displayed along with photographs of landscapes and Native American villages. Curated by SU student Rebecca West.

Spotlight On Collections

The Case of the 'Migratory' Ledger/Warrant Book

by Dr. G. Ray Thompson

Anyone studying the early history of Delmarva has raised questions about missing records and documents. The early Quaker records of Somerset County comprise one such important gap in our historic understanding of the religious and political origins of Delmarva. The early Presbyterian records of the "seaside" of Delmarva are yet another series of highly sought after, but presumed to be lost, records. Certain political and economic records also fall into a hazy category of "missing." The whereabouts of such records, if still in existence, may never be satisfactorily answered. There are a myriad of explanations for the relocation of historical documents. We continue to hope that these records might have been preserved in personal possessions as settlers moved westward from Delmarva. Many hope that these rare documents might turn up in some distant library, archive or attic. Some records found their way into the saddlebags of itinerant ministers (primarily Methodist) as they moved from one charge to another. Such records might be found in almost any location to which settlers or their descendants might have migrated.

Such is the case with a very important record book that detailed Somerset County's early land and settlement patterns. In 1902, the Pennsylvania Historical Society received a hand-written ledger containing significant information about the settlement of Old Somerset County, MD. In an effort to discover the contents of this book, I set out to the Pennsylvania Historical Society in Philadelphia. My trip to the PHS was a double-edged sword. Gaining access to the ledger was not as easy as I had hoped; my initial impression was that I was being treated as an interloper who had no business examining such a record. However, once I had gained access to the leather-bound manuscript, I realized immediately that it was a VERY significant record. The crumbling pages held more than 269 pages of land warrants, often two to a page, with records of more than 600 land surveys.

Each warrant listed the name of the person to whom the land was assigned, the name of the property, the acreage of the survey, a detailed description of the survey, the date of the writing of the survey and the date of the recording of the survey, as well as the name of the surveyor and the names of his provincial supervisors. Finally, the specific name of the Lord Baltimore who was in power, as well as an indication of the number of years that he had been ruling in Maryland, was included.

This book proved to be a genuine treasure trove of information. Not quite half way through my examination of the manuscript, I found an incredible amount of geographical information, most importantly the names of the physical boundary markers, creeks, branches, bays and islands, each identified specifically. The distance from each creek or branch to the closest river artery was also included. What I have found particularly exciting is that often the names of neighbors or adjacent property owners are listed. This warrant book can help us as we begin to "flesh out" our identification of settlement patterns and kinship patterns on the Eastern Shore.

However, this book is not just a list of "warrants" of surveyed properties. Francis Jenkins used this book prior to his appointment as deputy surveyor for the Eastern Shore. He had apparently been a merchant or factor in Accomack County, VA, before he moved to Somerset County and this book served as his store ledger from approximately 1655-1662. Additional historical riches found in the volume are a listing of Conveyances and rents due the Proprietor in 1685 and miscellaneous account records from 1701-1707. I have yet to examine these latter records in detail, but they appear to have considerable historical information which should be useful for family history research.

This article is examining only the assignment of properties from 1670-1682, a pivotal time in the settlement of Old Somerset County. The Seaside (later to become Worcester County) was just being settled at this time. The movement of Eastern Shore Virginia settlers en masse into Somerset is apparent from these records. These Virginians were accumulating large tracts of land in Maryland; the fact that they were already established in Virginia might be a probable explanation for why they were able to accumulate larger tracts of property than others just arriving in Maryland from overseas. One person, William Stevens, emerges as a major land speculator, obtaining an immense amount of land throughout Old Somerset. Wherever there was a piece of land that had not previously been surveyed, preferably near a waterway, he "grabbed" it for his own purposes. In some cases, within the warrant itself, he already indicates the name of the person to whom that particular property is being assigned.

Who was Francis Jenkins, the owner of this warrant book? It is uncertain whether his is a "rags to riches" story, but what is clear is that he became a very prominent Eastern Shore resident. First seen as a store owner/factor in Accomack County, VA, by1671 he moved to Maryland's Eastern Shore and became deputy surveyor of the massive development that was taking place in Somerset County during that pivotal decade. Perhaps no decade was so rich in settlement as the 10 years from 1671-1681. The settlers who moved to Somerset during this time period were, by and large, the progenitors of families which continued to live in the county for the subsequent 250 years. The surnames recorded in this warrant book are the same ones that recur in the probate and land records without interruption until the post-Civil War period.

The picture which develops from this ledger is of a young man who started his career as a merchant in Accomack County during the chaotic 1650s when the colony was ousting religious and political dissidents. Malcontented people streamed into Somerset and became the leaders of that emergent area for the next two centuries; perhaps Jenkins was one such religious dissident. Whatever the reason he possessed in moving northward, Francis Jenkins is found living in Somerset County in 1671 in the powerful position of deputy surveyor. The first few warrants in the volume, strangely enough, list James Weeden as deputy surveyor, not Francis Jenkins. Soon after, however, Jenkins assumed that role and, on the remaining surveys, he was listed as the surveyor. During his years as deputy surveyor, Jenkins accumulated vast tracts of land, which, at his death, totaled more than 3,500 acres. Edward Papenfuse, in his *Biographical*

17th Century femme fatale *Spurs Migration*

by Rebecca Miller

While we know that most of the settlers from Accomack County, VA, who migrated to Old Somerset County, MD, came for reasons of freedom of religion, as well as the opportunity to increase their personal wealth through land acquisition, at least one settler, John Cropper, may have left Virginia for an entirely different reason. The story of what transpired is transcribed below and is found in the Testamentary Proceedings for the colony of Maryland.

The lovely Rhoda, nee Lambertson, was the widow of John Fassitt whom she married in June 1660 at Hungars Parish in Northampton County. Fassitt died in 1673, leaving Rhoda with five minor children. It was not uncommon for widows and widowers alike to immediately seek other unattached helpmates, as life was daunting in the 17th century. Apparently, Rhoda cast her eye upon Gertrude Bowman Cropper's husband, John, and they, with Rhoda's children, moved to Somerset County. Cropper died in 1688, naming Rhoda Faucett [Fassitt] his executrix and leaving her 250 acres of the tract Golden Valley.

Gertrude, the relict and widow of John Cropper deceased, humbly showeth that in or about the year of our lord 1670, Your petitioner [Gertrude] was lawfully joined in the bonds of matrimony to him the said John Cropper, then an inhabitant of Accomack County, Virginia, with whom she lived for the time of six or seven years and by him had several children who are yett living, but in that time, he the said John Cropper, Your petitioner [Gertrude]'s husband, through the allurements of one Rhoda Ffaucett, betook himself unlawfully to her Company and through her endearments Your petitioner [Gertrude]'s husband dwelt for hardly with Your petitioner [Gertrude]. That she was in danger of her life and who made out better to have his favors with her the said Rhoda ffaucett, that Your petitioner [Gertrude]'s husband secretly and privately removed all of his severall estate into Somerset County in this Province together with the said Rhoda and there lived in Adultery with her for about tenn years by whom he had several base children and in the mean time Your petitioner [Gertrude], with her children was enforced to seek to her relations for relief, which partly they and partly Your petitioner [Gertrude]'s labour hath maintained ever since Your petitioner [Gertrude]'s husband left her. All which reasons makes prove of Adultery by the records of Somerset County Court as other sufficient witnesses. Now may it please your Honor, for it is that, in or about the month of November last past that Your petitioner [Gertrude]'s husband John Cropper departed this life seized of several tracts of land lying in this province and lawfully possessed of sundry goods and chattels, the greater part which of he by his last will and testament bequeathed to those his bastard children and made the said Rhoda ffaucett sole executrix of which estate she is now possessed and hath not left anything to Your petitioner [Gertrude] and although Your petitioner [Gertrude] hath demanded her dower which she humbly considereth to be her right yett she the said Rhoda ffaucett utterly refuseth to give to Your petitioner [Gertrude] anything of her said husbands estate, whereby Your petitioner [Gertrude] is likely to suffer by great want and poverty. Wherefore Your petitioner [Gertrude] humbly prays that Probate of the said will may be suspended until Your petitioner [Gertrude] hath made proofs of what is declared for which She humbly supplicated a convenient time and place may be appointeth, the evidence being remote and several inhabitants in Virginia and that in the mean time, the estate formerly belonging to Your petitioner [Gertrude]'s husband aforesaid may be secured from further waste and inventoryed and the said Rhoda ffaucett give a just account upon oath of what goods and chattels came to her hands which Your petitioner [Gertrude]'s husband dyed possessed since his death and that your Honors will consider by what manner Your petitioner [Gertrude] may have her right and as is duty bound. 2 March 1686 The afore going petition being read and by the judge's hand and fully understood the prayer of the said petitioner [Gertrude] was granted. Ordered that Probate of the said will be suspended till Certified.

4 March 1686 Therefore it was ordered by the Honorable Judge's that the following: Henry Darnall and Clement Hill, Esquire, Judges for Probate Wills and granting Administrations with the Providence of Maryland. To the Justices of Somerset County or any four of you in Court sitting: Granting where as this day, the second day of March in the Twelfth year of the Domain of the Right Honorable Charles Lord Baron of Baltimore in the year 1686 was exhibited before us the humble petition of Gertrude Cropper the relict and widow of John Cropper late of Somerset County aforesaid. Gertrude Cropper, the widow of John Cropper.

By 1690, Rhoda had married Col. John Franklin who died in 1727 and survived her. Two of Franklin's daughters married two of Rhoda's Fassitt sons.

This original document on microfilm can be utilized at the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University, Microfilm MPT4; MD Prerogative Court (Testamentary Proceedings 1679-1697) Book 13, 4 March 1686, p. 458-461.

The Case of the 'Migratory' Ledger/Warrant Book (cont.)

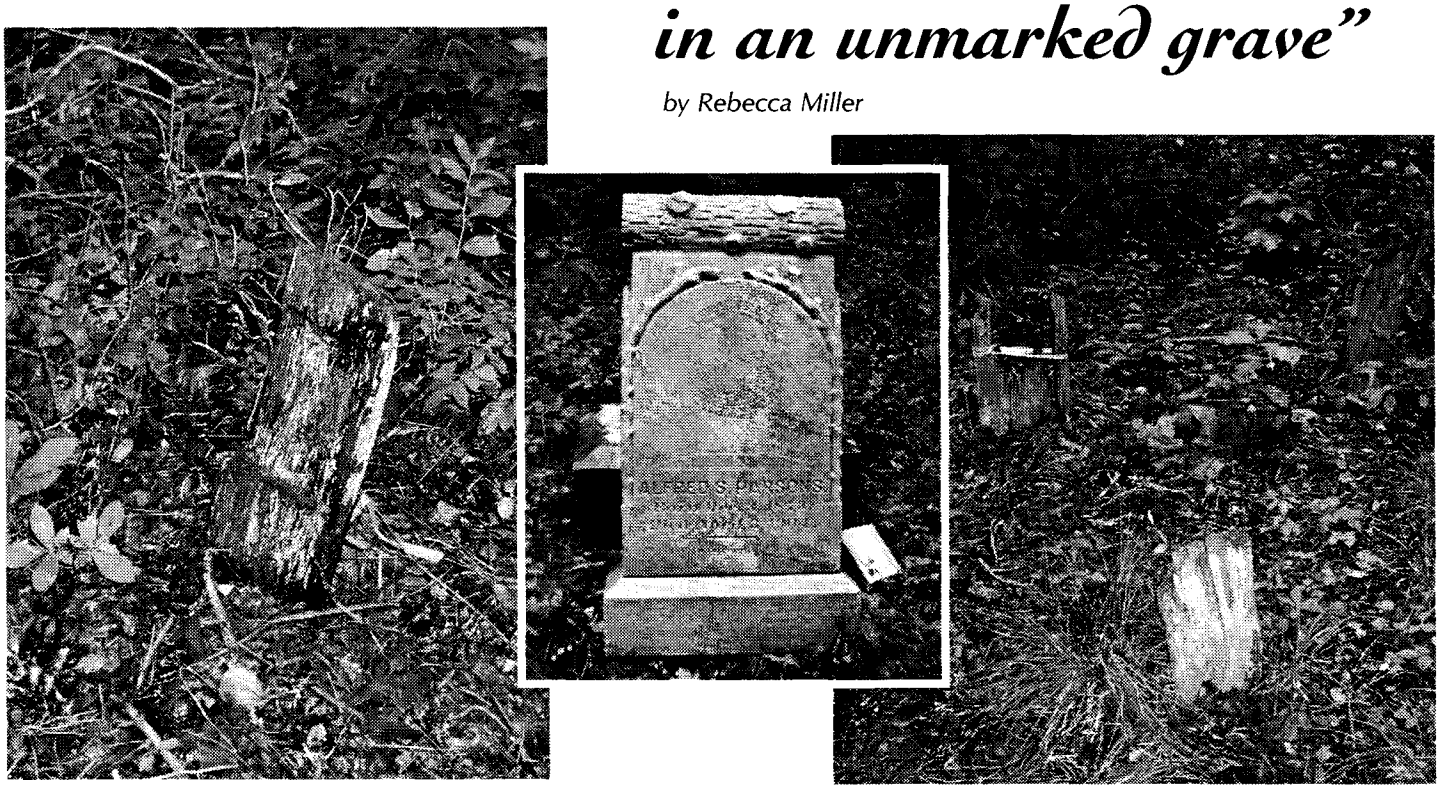
Dictionary of the Maryland Legislature, 1635-1789, (pp. 486-487) describes Jenkins as having married James Weeden's widow by 1672. It was, however, his marriage to Madame Mary King in the last decade of the 17th century that catapulted him into a higher social and economic level. His new social position, in turn, gave him a new political dimension. He began to serve in various political capacities in both local and provincial levels, continuing public service until his death in 1710.

The Nabb Research Center is indebted to one of its board members who provided the hefty sum for microfilming this work, making sure the microfilming was completed, and making it available to researchers on local and family history. This material, like the thousands of other microfilms lining the walls of the Nabb Center, provides the nucleus for serious study that will open up a new dimension of our understanding of seventeenth century Delmarva.

Dr. G. Ray Thompson, founder of the Nabb Research Center and professor of history at Salisbury University, is the author, compiler and editor of countless articles and transcriptions pertaining to Delmarva history.

"no Woodmen shall rest in an unmarked grave"

by Rebecca Miller



The impetus for this article came about after Nabb Center members Bill Collison and Steve Matthews invited Becky Miller to accompany them to an old Matthews cemetery between Laurel and Millsboro, DE. Although it was summer, not even the fear of snakes, ticks and jiggers could quell Miller's anticipation to see and photograph rare wooden grave markers. According to Matthews, the cemetery site was on land purchased in the 1770s by his forebear Teague Matthews (c1737-1790), who had moved from the Morumsco area of Somerset County to what is now Sussex County, DE.

Another unexpected and unusual sight found at this cemetery was the elaborate tombstone of Alfred S. Parsons, on which was inscribed "Woodman of the World." None of us had any idea what this was. It turns out to be a form of 19th century advertising, although it is doubtful how effective it was since this cemetery is a quarter-mile walk off a country road in a heavily wooded area.

In 1883, Joseph Cullen Root began a fraternal society in Omaha, NE, called "Modern Woodmen of America." One of the membership benefits was that, upon death, the other members would pass around a hat and donate money to the widow. As with other national fraternal societies of the 19th century, such as the Knights of Pythias and the Junior Order of American Mechanics, membership was limited to white males older than 18 years of age. When passing around the hat became more frequent and costly, Root decided to sell life insurance to members. Modern Woodmen of America became a fraternal benefit society. Up until 1935, when a member died the society would donate $100 toward the burial expenses if the surviving family allowed the society's emblem and/or wording to appear on the stone.

By 1889 several members of the Modern Woodmen separated from the society and formed a new group under the leadership of Fred A. Falkenburg and named it "Woodmen of the World." Shortly thereafter, Falkenburg again splintered the society and moved to Denver, CO, to form "Woodmen of the World, Pacific Jurisdiction." In the 21st century, the three societies survive as insurance companies. Woodmen of the World created women's auxiliaries called "Woodmen Circle" and "Supreme Forest Woodmen," while the Pacific Jurisdiction created an auxiliary called "Neighbors of Woodcraft," of which the latter still exists as an insurance company in Portland, OR.

Found at the Internet site of Omaha Woodmen Life Insurance Society is the following statement:

> "Regardless of its shape or size, Woodmen gravestones serve as a lasting tribute to its members and the ideals of Woodcraft. They also serve the Society's long-standing motto that 'no Woodmen shall rest in an unmarked grave.'"

While the elaborate tombstone and its woodman designation were not at all as we imagined, it is still an interesting story and a part of Delmarva's cultural landscape.

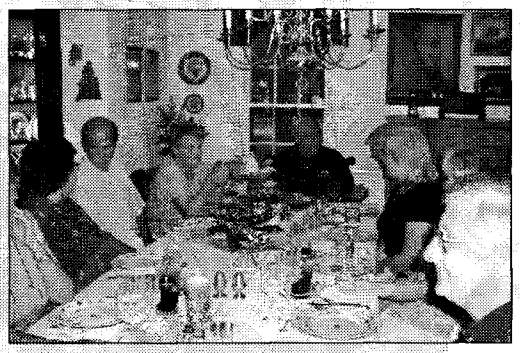
For more information about their markers, visit www.woodmen.com/about/gravemarkers.cfm.

Clifton Event Fundraiser

Ray Thompson, founder of the Nabb Center, SU professor of history and superb maitre d', serves yet another course at the Midsummer Night's Madness Dinner. Klaudia Thompson, SU professor of modern languages and chef extraordinaire, worked behind the scenes preparing seven beautiful courses, which included fare such as eggs russe with assorted crackers, pork loin medallions with herb mustard and harvest chutney, and pots au crème mousse. Potent potables, such as the Italian lemoncello, which followed the decadent meal, were specially selected for each course.

Sandy Quillin, co-chair of the Clifton Committee, relaxes at the Thompsons' home before the meal was served.

Carolyn Ballou and Pat Taylor, Nabb Center volunteers, and Corrine Les Callette contributed to the Nabb Center by purchasing tickets to a dinner planned and orchestrated by Klaudia and Ray Thompson. The trio, who were part of a group who bid on (and, obviously, won) their dinner invitations during the Clifton silent auction, took great pleasure in partaking of the delicacies served at the soiree in July.



The Midsummer Madness group dining in luxury.

For the second year, Clifton, circa 1800, was the perfect setting for the annual fundraiser. Guests sipped mint juleps on the back veranda and strolled around the spacious lawn, enjoying the evenlight on the Manokin River.

(From left) Jeff Fox, Pat Taylor, Thelma Merrill, Polly Batchelder, Martha Pfeiffer and Dr. Paul Pfeiffer paraded around the Clifton house and grounds in period garb. The costumed assemblage added authenticity and ambience to the elegant evening, as well as historical insights, serving as docents.

Nabb Center board members, Rob Withey and Andrea Ullrich, enjoyed the merriment and fine company.

Bill and Kathy Niskanen, owners of Clifton, served as gracious hosts by welcoming over 100 guests into their home for the evening.

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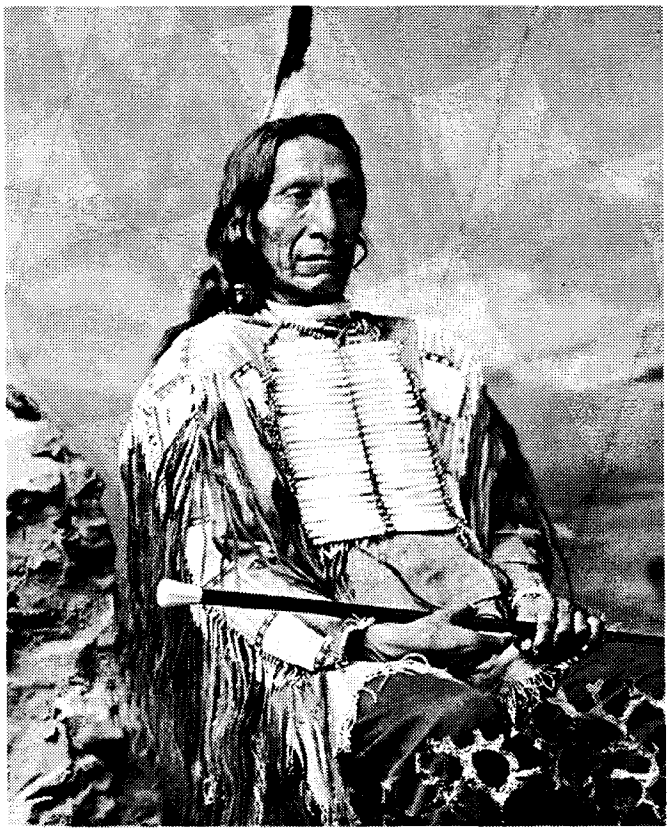
Late 19th Century Native American Photo History: Tracing the Provenance

by Rebecca West



Red Cloud, Oglala Sioux chief, who led the Native American warfare against the establishment of the Bozeman Trail in the 1860s. Photograph taken by Charles Milton Bell in 1880.

Sitting Bull, leader of the Hunkpapa Warrior Societies and chief of the Sioux in the Battle of Little Bighorn, where George Custer and his men were defeated. Photograph taken by David F. Barry in 1884.

Photographs courtesy of the Wilcomb E. Washburn Collection

Planned for November 2004 at the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, "Late 19th Century Native American Photo History: Tracing the Provenance" will feature the works of several late 19th century photographers of Native Americans.

The collection was part of a donation to the Nabb Center from Wilcomb E. Washburn, Ph.D, who owned a vast amount of Native American artifacts and documents. During his extensive career, Washburn served as director of the Smithsonian Institution's Independent American Studies Program and curator of the Division of Political History at the National Museum, among other distinguished roles.

The original photographic works from the Washburn Collection illustrate the blend of Western and Native American cultures that occurred during this era. Portraits of some notable Native American personalities of the late 19th century, such as Sitting Bull, Red Cloud and Geronimo, all of whom were involved in various Native American struggles for civil rights, will be displayed, along with photographs of landscapes and Native American villages of the time.

The tools and practices utilized by the creators of the photographs are vital to understanding why these works were created and what purpose they serve today. The artistic and technical aspect of the collection will also be presented thanks to the assistance of local photographer Michael Day. The difficult process of identifying the photographs and the importance of determining the creators helped to inspire the overall theme of tracing the provenance while observing Native American history through the camera's lens.

Rebecca West is a senior history major at SU who plans to further her education with a degree in museum studies.

Berlin Man in Mosby's Regulars

by Rebecca Miller

It is hard to study the Civil War with respect to the Eastern Shore, particularly since there has been no scholarly monograph clearly identifying local individuals who served in the war. Thus the role those on the Peninsula played has been obscured. It has been left to chance to happen upon names of local soldiers who participated in the conflict.

One such soldier was Sewell Turpin Williams. *The Worcester Messenger* has a column, "Olden Days," which excerpts items from past issues. Under the section titled "100 years ago" it reads: "Sewell T. Williams, a resident of Berlin and a veteran of the Civil War died at the Old Soldier's Home. He was one of the last known survivors of Mosby's Rangers in the war." This was just enough information to intrigue the reader and pique interest in the identity of Williams and what was Mosby's Rangers.

John Singleton Mosby (1833-1916) was a cavalry lieutenant serving as General J.E.B. Stuart's chief scout, who left Stuart's command in December 1862. In January 1863, with 15 men, they began engaging in "partisan ranger operations" in Loudoun and Fauquier counties of Northern Virginia. In just three short months, so many volunteers joined Mosby's group that the unit was organized as Company A, 43rd Battalion of Virginia Cavalry.

In a letter from Jno S. Mosby near Middleburg, VA 16 March 1863 to Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, he wrote:

> There has been no movement of the enemy since I saw you. I learn that they pursued me to within about a mile of Aldie, and then returned. I send the paroles of 3 deserters from their cavalry, who came up yesterday, bringing their arms and horses.
>
> I start with my command to-day, to go down in the neighborhood of Dranesville. I expect to flush some game before returning. I have received several more recruits. Public sentiment seems now entirely changed, and I think it is the universal desire here for me to remain. I send your bundle. Please order the ordnance officer at the Court-House to issue me some ammunition.

In a letter dated 25 March 1863 Stuart wrote to Mosby enclosing "evidence of appointment by the President in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States" and was told to "proceed to organize a band of permanent followers for the war, but by all means ignore the term 'Partisan Ranger.' It is in bad repute. Call your command 'Mosby's Regulars' and it will give it a tone of meaning and solid worth." Stuart cautioned Mosby to be wary of allowing deserters from other branches of the service into his service and told him that "entry into service must be unconditional." He advised Mosby "to be very fastidious in choosing your men, and make them always stand the test of battle and temptation to neglect duty before acceptance."

Sewell Turpin Williams was listed as a private in Company A. Some of the other soldiers listed in Company A have local surnames. By the end of the war, Mosby's command had grown to two battalions of eight companies and at least 1,900 men had served in the unit. Occupied Northern Virginia was the base of Mosby's operations, from Alexandria to Harper's Ferry and became known as "Mosby's Confederacy."

Sewell T. Williams of Berlin, aged 21, occupation merchant clerk, is listed as "Drafted" on the 17 September 1862 Enrollment Record for Worcester County. On the 1890 Special Census of Surviving Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, and Widows, etc., Suel T. Williams was listed as having served in the Confederate Army, nativity was Berlin; he had served as a private in Company A of 43 Virginia Infantry, entering service 7 Aug 1863, "disbanded Apr 1865." We do not know if Williams remained in Berlin after being drafted in June 1862, taking the chance that he would not be picked up, or whether he left home for a time and then joined up with Mosby's Regulars.

All we know of Williams' life to date is from the federal census information:

1900 Census East Berlin 3rd E.D. of Worcester County

Sewell T. Williams b. Jan 1840 bookkeeper living at the Hotel where Thomas S. Savage was proprietor

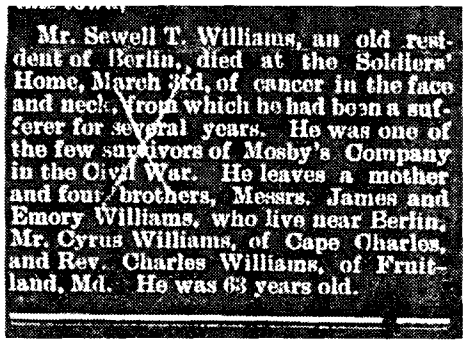
1880 Sewell Williams 35 merchant, boarder in household of Henry D. Tingle in Berlin 9th E.D.

1870 Sewell T. Williams 30 merchant, residing in hotel kept by F.JU. Harmonson in Town of Berlin #121

1860 Sewell Williams age 27 clerk in household of Cyrus Williams 49 merchant Town of Berlin#1285 worth $40,000 in real estate and $50,000 in personal goods

1850 Sewel Williams age 7 in the household of Naron Williams 39 farmer and Martha 39 3rd E.D. Worcester #669

All of the research had been done but we needed the original death notice. Thanks to Karen Neville of the Worcester County Library, Snow Hill, who found the original death notice in the microfilmed *Democratic Messenger* 12 March 1904, on page five, we learned a bit more:


Mr. Sewell T. Williams, an old resident of Berlin, died at the Soldiers' Home, March 3rd, of cancer in the face and neck, from which he had been a sufferer for several years. He was one of the few survivors of Mosby's Company in the Civil War. He leaves a mother and four brothers, Messrs. James and Emory Williams, who live near Berlin, Mr. Cyrus Williams, of Cape Charles, and Rev. Charles Williams, of Fruitland, Md. He was 63 years old.

From the census data we see that Williams apparently never married and was a merchant in Berlin. From the death certificate index, we found that he died in Baltimore, so we may conclude that is where the Soldiers' Home was. Once we had the names of family members, from the 1900 census we could also glean that the mother, Martha [Timmons] Williams, who was born about 1811, was living with Williams' brother Emory H. Williams in Berlin. A Thomas L. Williams had a son Sewell T. aged 3 and Williams' brother Thomas had a son named Suel who was born in 1865. Perhaps more research will provide additional details of Williams' life.

Another example of Delmarva soldiers who have been lost in history is that of the Fontaine brothers, sons of Henry and Betsy Bozman Elzey Fontaine of Back Creek in Somerset County. The Hartzler source has "W.B. Fountain" rank and unit but no personal information such as from what town or

Disappearing Delmarva

So ... What's In A Name?

by T. Aaron Horner

Ever wondered how a place got its name? Here on Delmarva, nearly all the place names, whether it is a town or a river, have their origin in either the English tongue or Native American languages. Many bodies of water on the Shore have taken on Native American names while roads and towns have generally taken on English names. Each word designation seems to have a unique history. The town of Princess Anne, believed to have been named after Queen Anne, was actually named after a daughter of George II, while Smith Island, long attributed to Capt. John Smith, was actually named after Henry Smith, of no known relation, many years later.

However, after 300 years of English settlement, many places on the Shore have changed their names. For example, prior to 1850, Deal Island was known as the Devil's Island. Lore has it that English settlers cursed the devil after shipwrecking onto the island sometime during the 17th century. Through the influential preaching of the Rev. Joshua Thomas (1776-1853), the "Parsons of the Islands," the "v" dropped out of the name, thus "Devil's" became "Deil's." Over time, the "'s" disappeared and the "i" phonetically changed to an "a," becoming the common spelling "Deal" that we see on maps today. By the early 19th century, Somers Cove became Crisfield because of the efforts of John W. Crisfield (1808-1897), who brought the rail line from Delmar, through Somers Cove, and finally to a southern terminus on Tangier Island, in order to tap into its growing seafood industry.

Several towns received their names through very unusual circumstances. Chance, a small town near Deal Island, was originally known as Rock Creek. When Capt. James Whitelock petitioned the government to set up a post office there, the authorities turned him down. Figuring there would be no "chance" it would ever receive an office, he petitioned them again with it to be named "Chance." To his surprise, the government granted his request. At the lower end of Deal Island lies the small community of Wenona. The word is of Sioux origin, spelled "Winonah," meaning "first born child, if a daughter." As far as we know, there were no Sioux tribes anywhere east of the Mississippi River, let alone on the east side of the Chesapeake Bay.

Other towns have taken on the surnames of local families, such as Bishopville, Toddville and Whaleysville, while others have taken on Biblical names, such as Bethel, Hebron, Mt. Hermon and Rehobeth. Delmar and Marydel share a common interest in that both towns border the two states, Maryland and Delaware, while a third town, Mardela, also taking on the name of these two states, lies within two miles from the southwest corner of Delaware.

Over time, many of the smaller hamlets that dotted the landscape of the Shore during the 19th and 20h centuries have slowly disappeared. As populations shifted toward larger urban centers, towns saw closures of their various churches, schools, post offices and businesses. These institutions played a prominent role in each community. With the automobile replacing the horse as the primary mode of travel, people began to move about more freely, rather than being confined to their home communities like their parents or grandparents. As desegregation took place, many of the rural schools either lost class grades or closed completely. In recent years, we have seen the closure of rural post offices and churches due to declining populations.

Several communities have been lost forever due to the forces of nature. While the marshes have taken over the former hamlet of Bethel, or Pigeon House, near Dames Quarter (originally "Damned Quarter"), the waters of the Chesapeake have slowly eroded away Holland Island. Some areas have taken steps to curb this trend. In an effort to preserve their histories, the communities of Deal Island and St. Stephens, within the last year, saved their churches from near condemnation while others have been able to establish themselves as registered historical regions.

Berlin Man in Mosby's Regulars (cont.)

even county Fountain hailed.

A new acquisition, courtesy of the LDGS donation, *First and Second Maryland Infantry, C.S.A.*, shows the following:

> Fontaine, _____. Pvt., Co. I., 1st Md. Inf. Enl. Date unknown. KIA near Munson's Hill 8/27/61.
> Fontaine, Whit B. Pvt., Co. G, 2nd Md Inf. Enl. Date unknown. WIA Gettysburg 7/2/63 and left on the field. Died of wounds."

From a personal interview with the late William Ballard Fontaine of Normandy Farm in Somerset County, he related that two of his great-grandfather's brothers served in the Confederate Army, both dying as young men at the Battle of Bull Run. Whittington or Whitty, was born 19 April 1820, thus he was at least 40 years old at the time of his unknown enlistment date. The unnamed Fontaine was George Washington Fontaine who was born about 1828. Although the relative who told Fontaine about the battle in which his great-uncles met their demise was mistaken, the family lore is still of great value in that without this information, the brothers Fontaine would remain unidentified.

If anyone has any information on Sewell Turpin Williams or the Fontaine brothers, a photograph to share, or knowledge of local members of Mosby's Regulars, please contact the Nabb Research Center.

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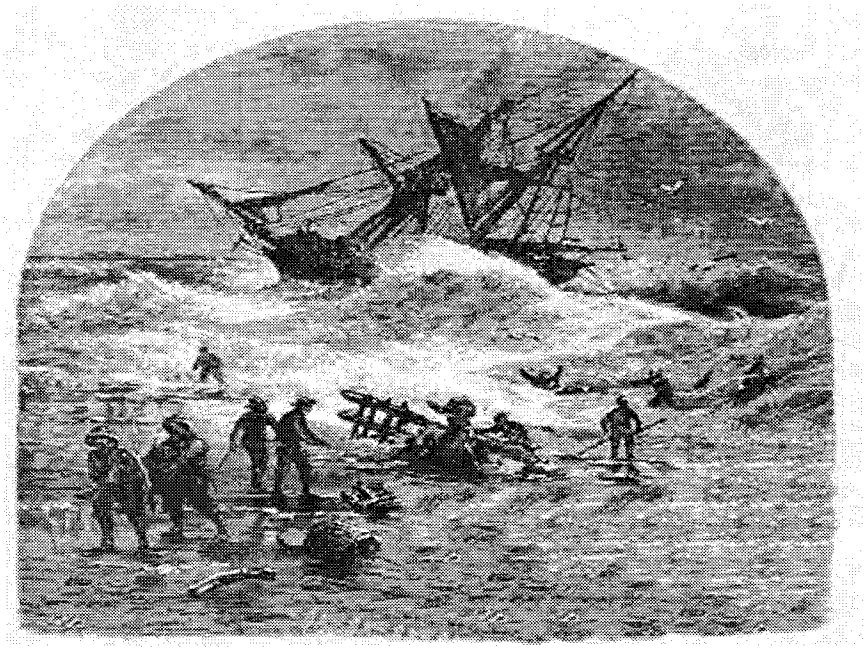
Pirates of the Chesapeake

by Sarah Meyers



When people think of pirates, images of *Pirates of the Caribbean* instantly spring to mind. People dream of the myth and lore surrounding such men as Henry Morgan, Bartholomew Roberts and "Calico Jack" Rackman. People also imagine life in places like Port Royal, Madagascar and the Mediterranean Sea.

It might surprise a lot of people to learn that the Delmarva Peninsula was also a hot bed for piratical activity. Many pirates came into these waters because of the many waterways, coves and inlets, which allow easy escape from authorities. Also with Philadelphia being a major port city, along with Baltimore and Annapolis, many pirates heard that the vessels in the area were easy targets due in large part to the lack of militia in the area. The pirates who operated in this area ranged from farmers, whose names are lost, all the way to one of the most notorious, Blackbeard. There are two main categories of pirates: those who operated legally (privateers) or during wartime and those whose activities were illegal (pirates) or during peacetime. This article shall focus on the latter.

One of the first men censured for piracy in North America was a Virginian named Thomas Smith. Another Virginian named William Claibourne hired him to attack Maryland vessels. Claibourne tried to maintain exclusive trading rights for Virginia on Kent Island, despite the fact that Kent Island fell under the jurisdiction of Maryland. When Lord Baltimore tried to put an end to this illegal trading, Claibourne countered by attacking any Maryland vessel who dared sail anywhere close to Kent Island. Smith became Claibourne's leading captain in his crusade against Maryland by looting and burning enemy vessels. Tensions between Virginia and Maryland escalated to the point of open warfare. In 1635, on the waters of the Pocomoke River, the Virginian ship *Cockatrice* (commanded by a man named Radcliffe Warren) fought against two Maryland vessels, the *St. Margaret* and the *St. Helen*. Three men were killed in the battle and the *Cockatrice* was confiscated. Smith went on to avenge the *Cockatrice* by capturing another ship laden with corn, furs and other goods. The argument over the rights to Kent Island waged for several more years. In 1638, however, Lord Baltimore ordered the arrest of Thomas Smith. He was finally captured, tried, convicted of piracy and sentenced to hang (he was granted mercy and was released on bail). Claibourne fled and went into hiding; he himself wanted for "grevious crimes of pyracie and muther." As a consequence, all his lands were seized and the dispute over Kent Island was resolved with it officially becoming part of Maryland. Smith and Claibourne may have been ahead of their time. They terrorized ships almost seventy years before the time that would later be called the Golden Age of Piracy.

The years circa 1690-1740 were the heyday of the most notorious men and women to ever sail the seas. This 50-year span was the age of pirates such as Blackbeard and William Kidd, both of whom were in the waters of Delmarva. Blackbeard (whose real name was probably Edward Teach) had strong ties to the Delaware region. His first mate's name was Israel Hands and he hailed from the Cape May region. Hands' family was very well connected in the Delaware Bay region, and they always made sure that Blackbeard and his crew received safe passage into the Delaware Bay and surrounding areas. There is a creek in Delaware named Blackbird Creek as well as a town by the same name. The original names for both the creek and the town were Blackbeard, named for the notorious pirate. He would often sail his ship into this creek to have repairs done to it because he knew the authorities would not bother him in this area due to Hands' connections. The people of the area welcomed Blackbeard because he always paid well for their work.

Rumors of buried treasure abound with every pirate and Blackbeard is no exception to this rule. Legend has it that he buried treasure up and down the east coast. This theory may have been proven a few years back. A sword, along with some coins, was found in the marshy area of Blackbird Creek. The sword is probably one that belonged to either a high ranking crew member or Blackbeard himself because it not only dates to the correct time period, but also, the pummel on the handle resembles a clover, the symbol of Blackbeard. The sword was probably left behind to serve as a warning to anyone who dare disturb the treasure left behind. Everyone would know to whom the sword belonged, and if anyone

suddenly came into wealth, word would get back to Blackbeard, who would seek revenge.

Another famous pirate in these waters was William Kidd. He is one of the most famous pirates despite the fact that he never intended to become one. The Scottish born Kidd started out as a successful New York businessman. He was commissioned by the English government to become a privateer and hunt down Henry Avery and his men in the Indian Ocean as well as attack any French ships. During the voyage aboard his ship, *The Adventure Galley*, Kidd's crew (made up of mostly murderous thugs who had been pressed-ganged into sailing) forced him to take up piracy, which was much more lucrative. Kidd is known as one of the only pirates who actually buried some of his treasure, in Gardiners Island, just off the eastern tip of Long Island, NY. That particular treasure has all been recovered, but there is speculation that Kidd buried other caches along the eastern seaboard. One of these stories comes from Howard Pyle who wrote about a 15-year-old boy named Thomas Chist. Supposedly Chist watched Kidd bury several chests of treasure a half mile inland at the beach of the Hen and Chicken Shoals (Lewes, DE). Chist ran away out of fear, but later returned with a local parson and uncovered a portion of the treasure. If this story is true, or if any of the treasure remains, it is not certain.

Charles Wilson was another infamous pirate whose name would have probably disappeared into obscurity had it not been for a letter he wrote to his brother. Wilson was a South Carolina sea captain who turned pirate in 1740. He was eventually caught, taken to London in chains, tried and convicted of piracy, and sentenced to death. From his cell in London, Wilson penned the following letter to his brother George in Charleston, SC:

> The Year 1750, London, England, To my brother, George Wilson, There are three creeks lying 100 paces or more north of the second inlet above Chincoteague Island which is at the south end of the peninsula. At the head of the third creek to the northward is a bluff facing the Atlantic Ocean with three cedar trees growing on it, each one about one and one-thirds yards apart. Between the trees I buried ten iron bound chests, bars of silver, gold, diamonds, and jewels to the sum of 200,000 pounds sterling. Go to the woody knoll and remove the treasure.

George Wilson never ventured to find the treasure. His brother's letter was buried within the British Naval records for 198 years. When it was finally published in 1948, treasure hunters calculated that the treasure should be buried on the southern end of Assateague Island just above the Virginia border. However, geography has changed in over 200 years due to storms and beach erosion. The landmarks and creeks that Charles described are all gone, but the treasure still remains, now with an estimated value of $10,000,000.

Probably the most unique pirates on Delmarva were Mooncussers. Mooncussers origins stem from the tradition of the buccaneers who operated in Central America. These were a special group of pirates who did not necessarily attack in ships but rather opted to work from the coast on land. For this reason, Mooncussers are also known as

land pirates. On moonless nights, they would go to the coast and watch for a ship in the distance. Then they would take a lit lantern and walk up and down the coast, or sometimes tie the lantern around the neck of a nag and walk the nag along the coast (this is how Nag's Head, NC, received its name). When a ship out at sea saw the moving light in the distance, the captain would assume it was another ship. He would then set a course for the moving light, because he thought it was safe water and he wanted to stay as close to the shoreline as possible. By the time the captain realized his mistake, it was too late and the ship would run aground. The land pirates could then take longboats and go out to the marooned ship where they would loot the contents. Mooncussers could only work on moonless nights; otherwise the captains of the ships could see the outline of the land and know it was a trick. This is how the Mooncussers got their name - they would curse the moon when it was out, especially the full moon.

In other areas along the coast, there were other methods that the land pirates used to run ships aground. Remember, during the 18th and early 19th century, one of the major port cities in America was Philadelphia. One of the only ways into the port was in the Delaware Bay. At the head of the Delaware Bay sits the Cape Henlopen Lighthouse, further south sits the Assateague Lighthouse. Prior to 1859 (when the Fenwick Island Light was built), when a captain saw the Assateague Light, he knew that the next light he saw would be the Cape Henlopen Light; when he saw that light he knew to make a sharp turn to the west into the Delaware Bay. Land pirates also knew this. At some point between the two lights, land pirates built up a huge sand dune; atop the sand dune they placed a 50-gallon metal drum and started a fire inside the drum; they then placed a door over the fire and waited for a ship to appear in the distance. When they saw a ship, they started to open and close the door they had built. The ship at sea thought the blinking light was the Cape Henlopen Light and therefore made the sharp turn into what they thought was the Delaware Bay. In reality they turned directly into a collision course with the land and soon foundered on the shore. Again, the pirates could come out and loot the ships from the longboats. Land pirating was a lucrative business until the addition of more lighthouses and the development of the lifesaving service (later the Coast Guard) in the late 19th century, as well as the development of better navigational techniques.

Throughout the ages, Delmarva has had a colorful history and some of the most fascinating characters in its saga have been pirates. They came to this area in search of wealth and hoping for ways to better their lives. They left behind a wealth of information to uncover and clues to help us better understand the true history of Delmarva. By piecing these clues together we get a better appreciation for our maritime heritage, which is the backbone of Delmarva's culture. Delmarva's piratical history is one full of action, intrigue, and of course, buried treasure.

Sarah Meyers is a 2001 graduate of Salisbury University with a B.A. in history. She now serves as the assistant director of the DiscoverSea Shipwreck Museum in Fenwick Island, DE. For further information please visit www.discoversea.com.

Richard Chambers: A Biographical Sketch

by Tasha Jones

The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia offered many challenges to settlers during the latter half of the 17th century. While good farming land was abundant and a rising tobacco trade made the cultivation of the land an economically prosperous endeavor, settlers faced the hazards of high mortality rates, conflicts with the indigenous people of the area, fluctuating demands for tobacco and the local impact of political upheavals in England.

The wealthy had the best chances of success in the Chesapeake region of the eastern Colonial frontier, as they were able to acquire both land and the servants to work it through the headright system. These servants faced greater odds of finding prosperity; they began their journeys in servitude and were often promised little more than clothing and a few items to help them get established once released from service. Yet some who came to the Eastern Shore as indentured servants overcame the odds and managed to learn trades, become property owners, and participate in the legal and civic affairs of their communities. Richard Chambers was one such person.

In October 1665, Richard Chambers met Henry Smith in the British port city of Bristol and agreed upon a four-year length of indentured servitude in Virginia. As part of the terms of indenture, the forward-thinking Chambers stipulated that he be able to either work for himself on Saturdays or be paid five pounds sterling annually if the former condition could not be met. He also received Smith's agreement that he would be given a bellows, anvil and vice at the end of the duration of his service. After these conditions had been agreed upon, Smith transported him to Virginia, claiming his headright and putting him to work at his home in Accomack County.

With what originally appeared to be a good set of circumstances for his period of indenture and later independent settlement as a craftsman, Chambers must have experienced disappointment and regret upon becoming familiar with the temperament and behavior of his new master. Smith consistently treated his servants in a cruelly abusive and negligent manner, a habit that resulted in the death of at least one servant. Chambers and his servant peers were left to appeal to the Accomack County courts for humane treatment, testifying to Smith's abuses of both themselves and his own family members.

Along with this general mistreatment and poor conditions, Smith offered further injury by declining to honor the initial terms of Chambers' indenture. Smith denied him the right to work for his own gain on Saturdays, refused to release him from service after the four-year period had expired and withheld the blacksmith's tools. In a display of determination to protect his future interests, Chambers turned to the legal system for aid. In all three cases the court ruled in his favor, going so far as to send the sheriff to seize the promised tools from Smith's keeping.

When eventually threatened with imprisonment in Virginia, Smith diverted his assets to Maryland and relocated to Somerset County. In a mysterious contradiction of the previous conditions and circumstances in Accomack County, Chambers accompanied Smith to Maryland, where the latter claimed the former's headright for a second time. While the two continued to cross paths and contend with one another in the Somerset County courts until–and even after–Smith's death, the 25 year old Chambers was a free man in Maryland, able to pursue his own livelihood and success.

Between the years of 1672 and 1723, Chambers bought and patented several land tracts in the Manokin region of Somerset County, established a plantation and eventually accumulated approximately 1,000 acres of land. In May 1676, he married Mary Ivory/Ivery, a woman who had been born in Accomack County and had moved to Somerset County in 1663. She died prior to the writing of Chambers' will in 1726, leaving his estate to be divided amongst his four remaining children and two grandchildren. One of his daughters, Mary, married into the Brereton family and produced two heirs by 1726. Another daughter, Olive, appears to have remained unmarried. His only son, Richard Jr., was unsuccessful in establishing a family and producing heirs, leaving his estate to be divided between cousins.

While Chambers was recognized as a blacksmith and a planter, he was also involved in the legal and civic aspects of the Somerset County community. He served as a juror and occasional foreman of a jury in several cases involving economic and criminal suits, acted as an appraiser for an inventory, administered the debts and goods of a deceased friend or community member, and took the role of attorney in the sale of a property for another. He also served as an overseer of the roads for the Manokin Hundred district and received payment for participating in an expedition against the Nanticoke Indians in 1678.

Chambers signed an address of loyalty to King William, Queen Mary and the Protestant religion in 1689. He was also selected to serve as a vestryman for Somerset Parish when it was established under the terms of the Church of England's 1692 Act of Assembly. Along with serving as a vestryman and signing the loyalty address, he also acted as a juror in at least two cases involving moral crimes, making it clear that he saw value in participating in the religious concerns of the community.

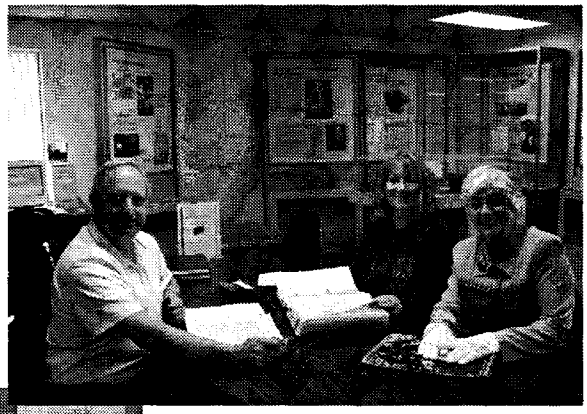
He lived to be approximately 84 years old, dying sometime before December 1728. The possessions he left behind did not reveal a household equipped with many luxuries. Most of the furniture, household items and livestock in his estate were described by appraisers as "old." Yet, when taken as a whole, the items and experiences that he accumulated through the span of his life tell a story of overall success.

Chambers started as an indentured servant, survived the abuse and exploitation of a notoriously cruel master, and used the law to fight for his personal well-being and interests. After settling as a free man in Maryland, he managed to negotiate the economic, political, religious and environmental challenges of late 17th and early 18th century life on the Eastern Shore to establish a family, acquire land holdings and serve as an active member of the local community. Through these activities, he earned enough respect to permit his daughter to marry into a prominent family and established the means to provide foundations of security for his other children.

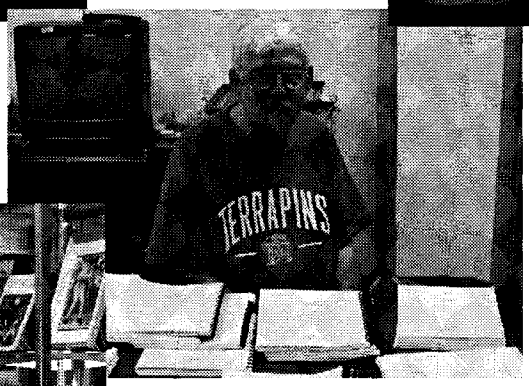
Yet of all of Chambers' properties and possessions, it is perhaps the humble anvil and blacksmith tools found in his home after his death that offer the most poignant and relevant commentary on his legacy. While they may not have been the same tools that the Accomack County sheriff had confiscated on his behalf almost 60 years prior to his death, they stand as symbolic reminders of his modest beginnings and personal determination, qualities that define and embody what we think of as the frontier spirit of the Colonial Eastern Shore.

Editor's note: Due to space restrictions, citations are available from the Nabb Research Center upon request.

Becky Miller inspects ledgers at the Calvin B. Taylor Museum in Berlin, MD, returning to the Nabb Center with two ledgers for scanning.

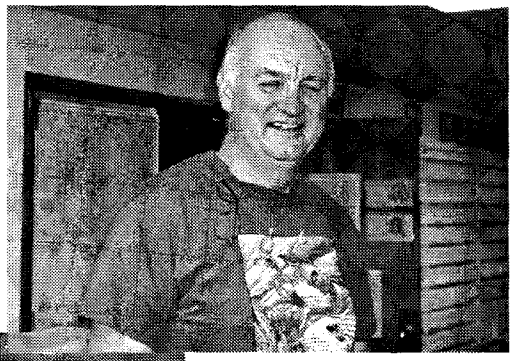


Pat Taylor, volunteer, poses here with Robert and Christine Foulk, who traveled from Delaware and North Carolina to research the Morris family. Taylor stumbled upon the pair in the cemetery at Wicomico Presbyterian Church and invited them to continue their investigation at the Nabb Research Center.



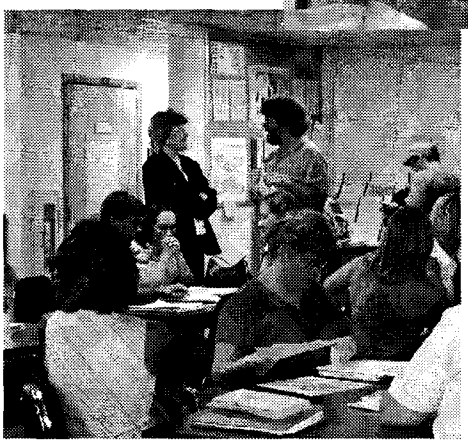
Neil Keddie, member and frequent patron of the Nabb Center, and Leslie Keddie from the Family Tree Bookshop donated several abstracts to the Center during the summer months.

Andy Titus, summer intern from Frostburg State University, interviews Ed Jones about the summer 2004 Nabb Center baseball exhibit. The interview was aired on PAC 14, formerly known as Access 26.



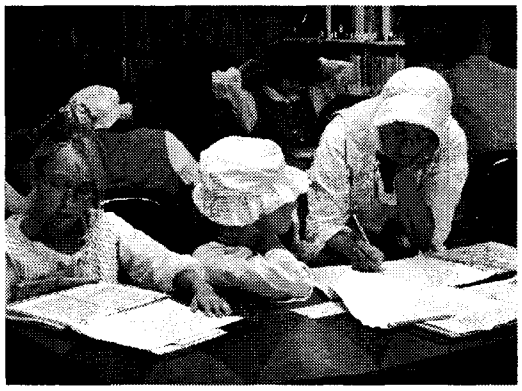
Ed Revell, descendant of prominent 17th century Somerset resident Randall Revell, visited the Nabb Center in April. Ed and his wife trekked all the way from Washington state to research at the facility. He also descends from such notable families as Scarborough, Lee and Custis.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Beauchamp traveled from Cedar City, UT, to research the Beauchamp and Dixon families. They received research guidance from expert volunteer Pat Taylor.



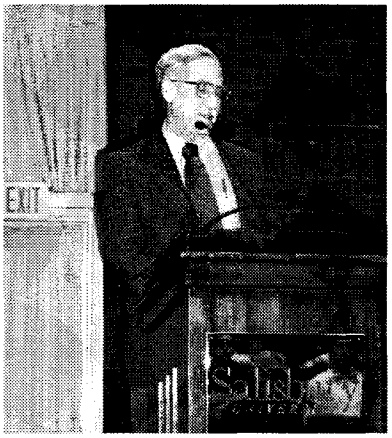
Dr. Ernie Bond of the SU Education Department introduced graduate students, all of whom are studying to become reading specialists in grades ranging from pre-k to high school, to the wonders of archival materials.

Pat Taylor, volunteer and research coordinator for the Pemberton Historical Camp, assists a young student in interpreting a primary document.

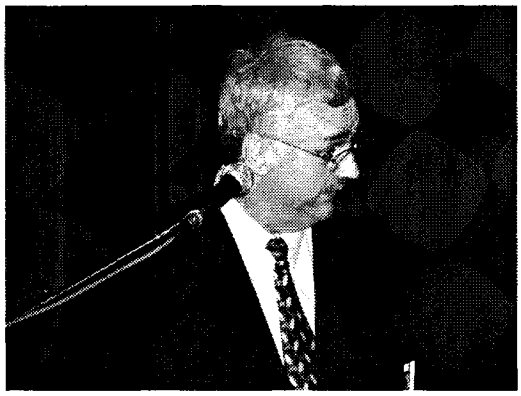


Students attended two sessions at the Nabb Center to develop a presentation based on the Colonial personas they were assigned. Carolyn Ballou, shown in the foreground, and Iris Powell and Dr. Ray Thompson, shown in the background, assisted the students in their research. Bill Wilson, also shown in period garb, was the history coordinator for the camp.

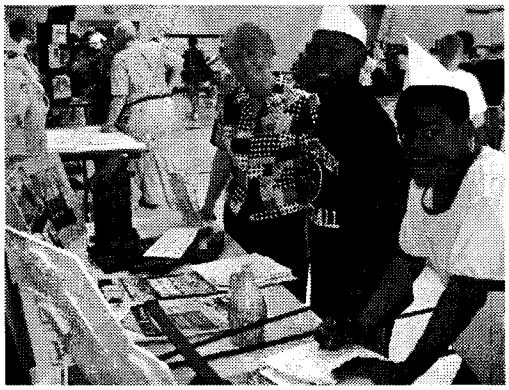
Richard Culver, SU media relations director, and Rebecca Miller, Nabb Center director, worked together at the Salisbury University booth during the 55th Delmarva Chicken Festival.



Peter Kolchin, the Henry Clay Reed Professor of History at the University of Delaware, presented a lecture in the Wicomico Room at Salisbury University on March 4. Kolchin's lecture, sponsored in part by the Nabb Research Center, centered around his most recent research which will become a sequel to his text *Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom* (1987).



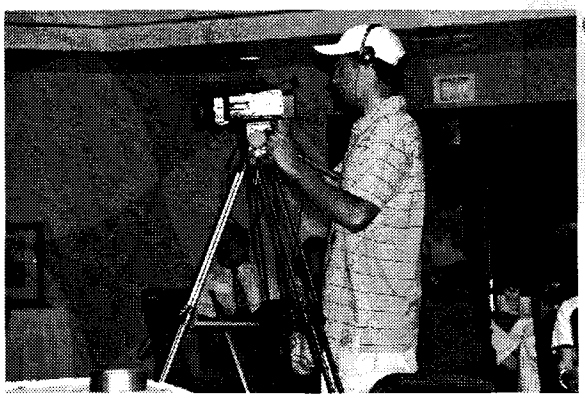
Mike Dixon shared his knowledge at a free lecture in May titled "If This House Could Talk." Sponsored by the Maryland Humanities Council Speakers Bureau and the Nabb Research Center, Dixon's talk offered research ideas and advice about how to discover hidden details about historic homes and properties.



Iris Powell and Rebecca Miller took the Nabb Research Center "on the road" for Career Day at Snow Hill Middle School on May 14. Students were introduced to examples of artifacts, maps and documents that can be accessed at the Nabb Center as well as to the different careers one can pursue in historical studies.

Termed in the vernacular as "Resurrection Lilies," these amaryllis were the spotlight of Nabb Director Rebecca Miller's July 28 "History Minute," which was aired on WBOC-TV 16. Daniel Whealton of Salisbury generously donated the "heritage flowers" for use on the broadcast. The flowers were grown from bulbs originally planted on the grounds of Liberty Hall in Manokin, MD, some four score years ago.

Andrew Titus, summer intern from Frostburg State University, filmed various events during the months of June, July and August for the Nabb Center, including the annual Wicomico Historical Society Dinner in June.



Scott's presentation was a powerpoint on the Nabb's American Orgins project.

Rob Withey, former curator of the Poplar Hill Mansion, addresses the crowd at the Wicomico Historical Society Dinner. Withey was honored at the dinner, which was held at Webster's in Salisbury, for his service to the historical community.

Carolyn Adkins (left) and Corrine Les Callette enjoyed the dinner and pleasant conversation.

Aaron Horner (left), the Nabb Center's resident "map man," and Mike Scott, professor of geography at SU, share geographical insights during the Wicomico Historical Society Dinner. Rarely can two such unique examples of the species be found together in the Wild

Obituary Clues

by Jane West

Are you aware of the value which obituary notices possess in regard to genealogical research? Many times obituaries can relate data not found in other materials.

For instance, there was an "Undertaker of the Islands" who plied his trade for 30 years between mainland Delmarva and Smith, Tangier and various other islands. This and other interesting facts have come to light as I transcribed obituary clippings from the Leslie Dryden Collection into a database for the Nabb Research Center. Though my involvement was related to a relatively short time frame, 1962-1984, there were many items of the past that surfaced that made my work both informative and enjoyable.

Beginning with each new surname, I have met many family members and their kinfolk until I felt I knew the whole clan. Some families were large with as many as 35 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren while others were very small. Some families have roots tracing back to the "first settlers" while others were newcomers. Each of the old family surnames can be found to have its roots in one particular area, and though many members have migrated, the surname is still identifies with the area. Additional notes can be gleaned by referring to the original newspaper notices, which are also accessible at the Nabb Research Center.

Another benefit for me has been the ability to locate and visit the large number of Somerset County cemeteries. My tour has led me throughout the county and has increased my geographical knowledge of the area. Locating a map of Somerset County with all the old place names no longer in use has been an added and yet an unfinished project. I enjoy working with the obituary database, searching for members of my own family and learning about others. Despite its small size, Somerset County has much to share. Obituary notices should not be overlooked when researching either an individual family or the county population as a whole.

Jane Thorsell West is a Salisbury alum and retired schoolteacher. She resides in La Plata, MD, with her husband, John.

Thank You Volunteers!

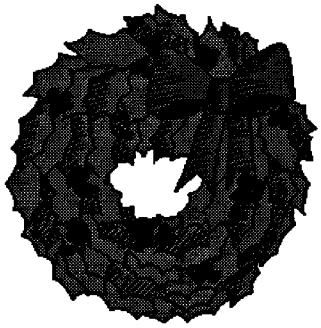
The Nabb Center is forever indebted to its gracious volunteers, who give their time and energy to assist the Center in its pursuit to make local historical materials available to the Delmarva community, Salisbury University students and the world. The article by volunteer Jane T. West in the Volunteer Corner section provides one volunteer's experience.

Volunteers Needed

Additional volunteers are always needed to help the Nabb Center accomplish its many tasks. We are now seeking volunteers who are willing to scan archival materials for future use at the Center. We prefer that one person scan a ledger or a collection of items for consistency's sake. However, any amount of help is appreciated, from an hour or two per day to an hour or two total! Envelope stuffing and newsletter folding are ideal tasks for those with minimal time to donate. Anyone interested may contact Pat Taylor, volunteer coordinator, at 410-543-6312 or rcdhac@salisbury.edu.

Now Available for Sale at the Nabb Research Center
Just in time for Christmas shopping!

In Her Own Words: A Southern Partisan on Maryland's Eastern Shore
Transcribed and available for academic researchers and Civil War history buffs alike! Clara Gunby's Civil War era journal accounts the effects of the great split between North and South and recorded the events, as well as her personal thoughts and feelings, from 1853-1865. This text is perfect for those who treasure the insights of American women of the past, whose voices may be silenced if not for the preservation of such valuable personal diaries and journals. $10.



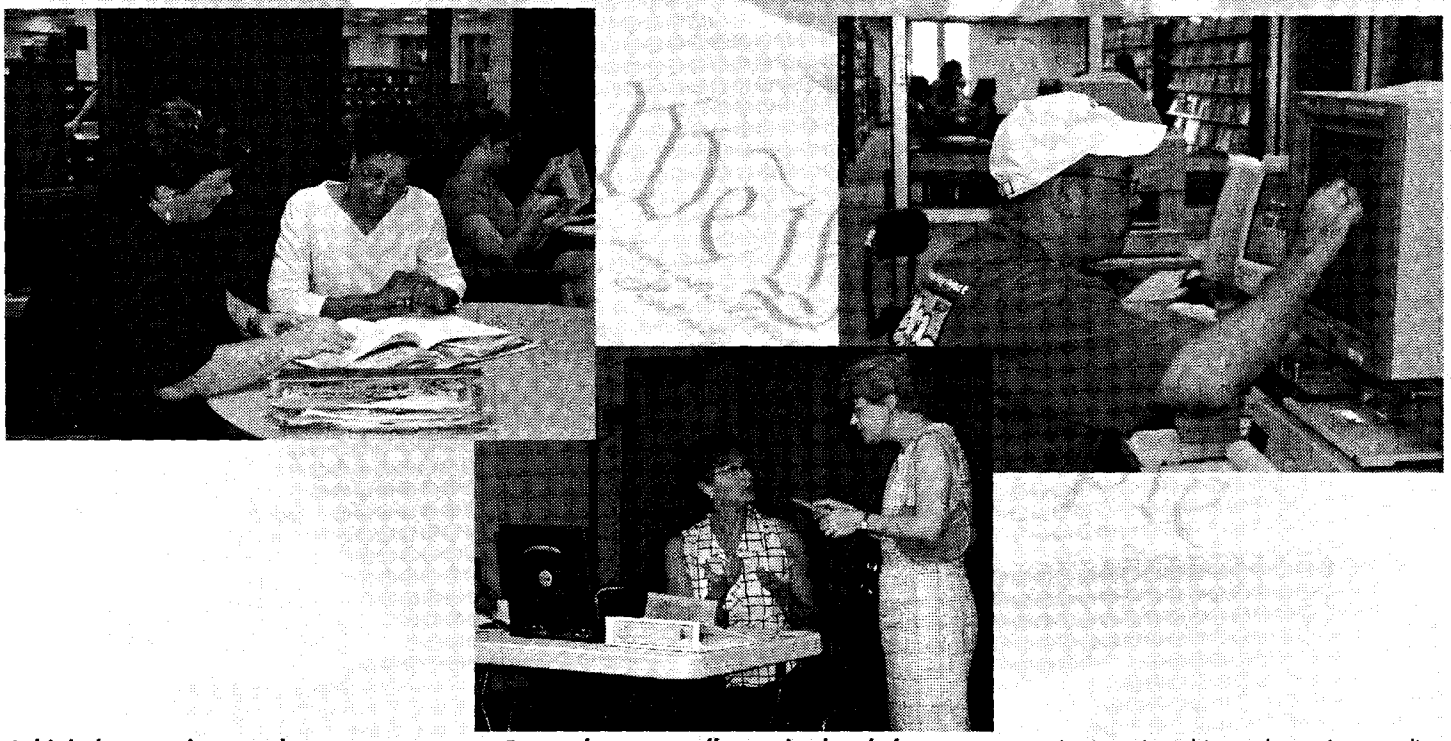
Counties of Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore
by Elaine Bunting and Patricia D'Amario and illustrated by Marcy Dunn Ramsey
Featured in our June 2004 newsletter, this delightful children's book is an ideal gift for children and grandchildren. Explore the counties of Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester through the diversity of the people, places and events that shaped the special character, the Lower Eastern Shore. $19.95

Studies in Primary Sources of the Lower Eastern Shore: Early Settlers of Old Somerset County, MD 1665-1700
Volume I of a four volume series, the text includes transcribed inventories of hundreds of men and women who lived in Somerset County. This inclusive text is sold as a set of two paperback books, totaling 475 pages! $55.

Call the Nabb Research Center at 410-543-6312

Teaching American History Grant Summer Institute

by Dr. Richard Wilson



I think that any time teachers can get together, work together, and share their work with one another, positive growth is sure to emerge. This institute has done a wonderful job of encouraging local teachers to take a close look at our region's history.
- Seminar Participant, Summer 2004

This sentiment, expressed by a Wicomico County history teacher, is typical of the comments made by the 41 participants in their anonymous evaluations of the summer institute for the Teaching American History Grant program. The local history mentioned above was provided by historians at Salisbury University who developed lectures on the themes of the seminar, used primary sources to enrich the lectures, and then worked with teachers on developing lessons to use in the classrooms for the coming school year. There were eight separate modules.

Module 1 focused on politics and was taught by Dr. Melanie Perreault and Dr. Dean Kotlowski. The main topics included the development of the Know Nothing Party, with connections made to local politics, and the New Deal, with local examples of relief, reform and recovery. Teachers gave high marks to the presenters.

Perreault gave a well-organized and clear presentation. It will be useful in my teaching of government in our unit on political parties ... Thanks!
- Seminar Participant, Summer 2004

Dr. Kotlowski had excellent visuals and had obviously done a lot of research into the topic. He also related the topic to the local area by using the local post office and the murals there as his examples.
- Seminar Participant, Summer 2004

Kotlowski made a research trip to Greenbelt and used his findings to show how it was part of the legacy of the New Deal. Another trip was made to the old Salisbury post office on Main Street where he and TAH administrative assistant Donna Messick took photographs of the murals painted there as part of the New Deal legislation. Additional photographs were taken before and after the demolition of North Salisbury Elementary School because the school was an example of New Deal architecture. So much interest has been generated that a group trip to Greenbelt was scheduled for September.

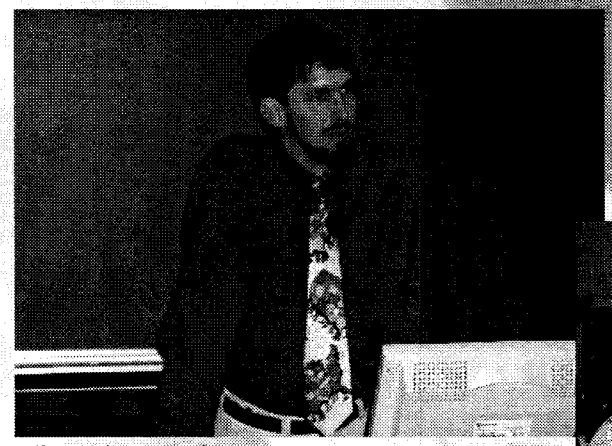
Module 2 focused on religion and was taught by Dr. Ray Thompson and Dr. Jeanne Whitney. Thompson explained how most events in American history have ties to religion. His emphasis was on the 18th century as he traced the evolution of different religious groups, especially in the local region. Whitney spent most of her time on the 20th century, touching on the "social gospel," religion in today's news and connecting religions in the past with those in the present. Both professors commented on the inherent difficulties in teaching about religion.

Dr. Thompson covered a lot of information in a short time. He did a good job covering many religions, some that are not always discussed.
- Seminar Participant, Summer 2004

I liked Dr. Whitney's introduction. It was very engaging and thought provoking. Her power point was well organized and her lecture was very informative.
- Seminar Participant, Summer 2004

A common concern expressed by many teachers related to the difficulty in teaching about religion while maintaining a non-biased classroom. Classrooms are increasingly diverse and it is the social studies teacher's job to provide for all frames of reference when it comes to religion.

A special event took place on the



Mike Lewis, SU professor.

Melanie Perrault, Jeanne Whitney and Creston Long, SU Professors.

evening of July 7 and the morning of July 8. Dr. Catherine Clinton, author of a recent biography on Harriet Tubman gave a speech to the public at 7 p.m. on July 7 and then met with teachers the following morning. Her thesis contends that Tubman is an under-recognized person whose contributions to America were both significant and extensive. Her work touched off lively debate.

It was a real treat to hear from a published author about a topic so familiar to many of us. The idea of bringing in historians is invigorating for a bunch of history teachers.
- Seminar Participant, Summer 2004

Module 4 focused attention on African American history. Dr. Creston Long presented many useful Web sites and primary sources for use in the classroom through his lecture on early 17th century slavery. His sources and comments focused on Maryland and the Eastern Shore. Dr. Clara Small also provided a wealth of resources in a lecture full of energy. Her lecture focused on the 19th and 20th century history.

Dr. Long is a very good speaker and gave us great resources to make his points. Dr. Small brought an excellent collection of materials. She made the lecture easy to follow and gave good, usable resources for my classes
- Seminar Participant, Summer 2004

Module 5 focused on economics and many teachers were surprised about how interesting the topic was. Long and Dr. Mike Lewis relied on a wealth of resources to describe the evolution of farming and manufacturing in the late 19th and 20th centuries. No one will ever forget the strawberry train and the poor, unfortunate opera goers. So much of what was presented fit into the frameworks of what is required to be taught in the public schools.

I dreaded the lesson but was pleasantly surprised ... both did an amazing job. Interesting, informative and useful. Usefulness of economics and its broad application was an eye-opener.
- Seminar Participant, 2004

Module 6 brought together oral history and resources at the Nabb Recearch Center. Small trained the teachers on how to do oral histories and even included a section in each of the teachers' notebook with helpful suggestions. This turned out to be a high-interest activity. *The Daily Times* even ran an article about the oral history component and featured it on the front page of their publication. Many people called to see if they could get involved.

Organizers also added a session about the Nabb Research Center because teachers indicated that they did not know what resources were available at the facility. As requested, Thompson arranged a short, informative presentation. Evaluations contained such statements as:

Dr. Thompson's introduction to Nabb was great. There was so much stuff I didn't know where to begin. The available resources are fascinating and would undoubtedly "grab" students. I would feel comfortable about using Nabb in the future. I never knew it existed.
- Seminar Participant, Summer 2004

It is clear that next year we will have to do an earlier and more extensive session on the Nabb Center.

Module 7 focused on citizenship. Perreault discussed the topic of citizenship on an individual basis and Kotlowski did a case study on the evolution of Assateague Island as a potential resort. Teacher evaluations included comments such as:

I like Dr. Perreault's tongue in cheek attitude about the topic. She was very enthusiastic about an interesting topic. Incredible. I wanted to keep listening to Dr. Kotlowski to find out more about Assateague Island.

Module 8 gave teachers an opportunity to share their lesson plans with colleagues. This was another high interest activity. The lessons will be placed on a special Web site that has been developed for this project. The Web site will serve to keep teachers and others abreast of developments in the project and to disseminate new work.

Plans for fall 2004 include the Greenbelt trip, a field trip to Annapolis to the Maryland Hall of Records, a half-day workshop on October 23 for grade 4 teachers who teach Maryland history, and a workshop on November 1 on primary source analysis and History Alive! For more information please visit www.wcboe.org/tah/.

Dr. Richard Wilson is a native Eastern shoreman who recently retired after 40 years as a teacher, administrator and curriculum supervisor and is the program coordinator for the Teaching American History Grant program.

Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History & Culture

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